Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians Killed in Clash With IDF Soldiers

Jerusalem Radio: 'Arafat Bodyguards Killed

TA1406052995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers killed three Palestinians in a fire incident near the Gaza Strip-Egypt border early this morning. One of the casualties was a fugitive named Darwish Abu-Hatlah, who tried to infiltrate into the Gaza Strip, and two members of Force-17 — Yasir 'Arafat's presidential guard — who came to accompany the fugitive. Palestinian sources say the incident started after the IDF soldiers shot and killed Abu-Hatlah, at which point the Force-17 members returned fire.

Israeli security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the three were spotted in IDF-controlled territory in possession of two Kalashnikov rifles; only one of them wore a Palestinian police uniform. Palestinian officers who arrived at the scene said they do not recognize the casualty wearing the Palestinian police uniform.

VOP Reports 3 'Citizens' Killed

JN1406062595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Palestinian citizens were martyred in the Gaza Strip at dawn today when the Israeli occupation soldiers opened fire on them. Large National Security and Police forces immediately rushed to the scene of the incident near the city of Rafah. The three martyrs were taken to the Nasir Hospital.

Names of Dead 'Citizens' Given

JN1406072695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three Palestinian citizens were martyred in the Gaza Strip at dawn today when the Israeli occupation soldiers opened fire on them. The martyrs are: Hasan 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Thurayya and 'Abd-al-Nasir Salah from the Jabaliya refugee camp and Darwish Abu-Khatlah from Rafah. Large National Security and Police forces immediately rushed to the scene of the incident. The three martyrs were taken to the Nasir Hospital in Gaza.

Press sources said the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee has met to discuss the new Israeli escalation.

Incident Said To Have 'Serious Ramifications'

TA1406084695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, one of the Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip, told Qol Yisra'el that this morning's incident in which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] killed three Palestinians will have serious ramifications on the continuation of talks between Israel and the Palestinians. He added that according to initial information, it appears that the IDF soldiers made a mistake and opened fire rashly.

PA Admits 2 'Force-17' Members Killed

TA1406094595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] admits that two of the three Palestinians killed this morning in the incident near the Egyptian border were members of Fatah's Force-17. PA Secretary General Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim says the two waited near the border in order to help a group of Fatah Hawks infiltrate from Egypt into the autonomy area without Israel's authorization.

Our correspondents Yoni Ben-Menahem and Nisim Qeynan report that the area in which this morning's incident occurred serves as a terrorist infiltration point. Apparently two Fatah Hawks managed to escape back to Egypt during the incident.

Liaison Chief: 'No Political Motives'

JN1406095695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Jun 95

[Interview with Brigadier General Ziyad al-Atrash, head of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, by Ahmad Zaki on 14 June; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zaki] Brigadier General Ziyad al-Atrash, head of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, what happened at dawn today in Gaza Strip?

[Al-Atrash] A tragic incident occurred last night, 13-14 June 1995, on the Palestinian-Egyptian borders at Rafah. Two Palestinian citizens were killed while trying to cross the international borders. From the moment it occurred, we have been holding contacts with the Palestinian and Israeli field commands in order to investigate the incident and control its consequences. Preliminary investigations indicate that there are no political motives behind this incident, which was the result of irresponsible individual acts. It is not true that the two Palestinians were members of President Yasir 'Arafat's guards.

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[Zaki] But the Israeli Army and the Israeli spokesman always say that the Palestinians are the aggressors. It has been established that a few months ago, the occupation troops attacked four policemen, killing three of them.

[Al-Atrash] That incident was different from today's incident. This is the truth about what happened today. The investigation will establish the details of the incident.

[Zaki] But the Israeli Army soldiers opened fire without warning?

[Al-Atrash] At first glance, one may think that the incident could have been tackled without using fatal bullets. But the bullets were fatal. In fact, this is a constant conduct of the Israeli Army although the rules of engagement do not stipulate a shoot-to-kill action. Instead, the shoot-to-kill action must be the last resort.

[Zaki] As a result of the preliminary investigations, how many bullets were there in the body of each martyr?

[Al-Atrash] One of the martyrs had a bullet in the jaw. Each martyr had more than three bullets in his body.

[Zaki] Then there was a deliberate murder, Brig. Gen, Ziyad?

[Al-Atrash] This will be established by the investigation. This information is only preliminary.

[Zaki] Brig. Gen. Ziyad al-Atrash, head of the Palestinian- Israeli Liaison Committee, thank you?

[Al-Atrash] Thank you.

'Arafat Adviser Comments on Incident

JN1406104995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Mr. Marwan, Israel alleges that one of the Palestinians involved in today's incident is one of the president's bodyguards?

[Kanafani] Involving the name of the president in this incident is a deceptive and an unethical thing to do. If the Israeli allegations are true, that man is — as far as we are concerned — a civilian. If investigation shows that he belonged to one of the security agencies, then he has acted individually and tried to help a friend to enter the country in an illegal way. We in the Authority do not approve of this act, but we understand the feelings that prompted this young man to try to come back to the homeland despite the fact that this operation cost him his life.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, have your ordered an inquiry to investigate the details of this incident?

[Kanafani] The president was awakened this morning and informed of the incident. He ordered in inquiry and I think that brother Ziyad [al-Atrash, head of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee] is in charge of it. The inquiry will present its report to the president within the next one or two hours.

[Al-Qazzaz] Thank you, Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat.

[Kanafani] Thank you.

Shots Reportedly Fired Near al-Husayni's House

TA1306185695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 13 June reports that "several Jewish men, right-wing activists, this evening fired shots in the air near the house of Faysal al-Husayni in East Jerusalem. They came in two cars and fled the scene. The police are currently hunting for them. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the incident took place after the right-wing activists wanted to photograph al-Husayni's house and met with opposition from local residents." In a recorded passage, correspondent Beni Liss adds that "Faysal al-Husayni and his people are convinced that somebody is trying to scare them, pointing an accusing finger at the Jewish demonstrators opposite Orient House. The shots were fired at 1700 this evening after, so al-Husayni claims, several Jews photographed his house and after watching the area yesterday." "The police took several of al-Husayni's bodyguards as well as some neighbors in for an questioning, in an effort to find the roots of the affair. Those picked up for interrogation hit the shooters' car, smashing its windows."

Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 also reports that Dr. Amin Majaj, who was appointed mayor of East Jerusalem by 'Arafat, told the Channel 1 television this evening that the PLO head gave his blessing to expanding activity in the city. In a recorded report Yoram Kohen in the territories says that "Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem were not moved at all today by reports that a Palestinian municipality is active there." He quotes journalist Ziyad Abu-Zayyad as saying: "I heard that they decided not to set up a municipality but to activate a municipal council which has been in existence since 1967. The council exists, and this decision has nothing to do with Orient House." Correspondent Yoram Kohen adds that "the house and office of Dr. Amin Majaj is located near Salah al-Din Street. Majaj, 74, a Christian, was the deputy Jerusalem mayor

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before the Six-Day War. He was appointed mayor by 'Arafat a few months ago [word indistinct] Ruhi Khatib, the mayor of East Jerusalem during the Jordanian rule there."

Al-Husayni Views Attack on Residence

JN1306192795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1738 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, held a news conference at his residence in the al-Suwwanah neighborhood in Jerusalem this evening.

During the news conference, he read out a brief press statement on the shooting incident against his residence which was carried out by Jewish settlers. Al-Husayni said a settler driving a Fiat Uno car first opened fire in the direction of al-Husayni's residence and then fled the scene. Afterward, persons in a Peugeot station wagon fired bullets at the residence and fled.

Al-Husayni pointed out that opening fire on his residence this evening was the second such attack in the past 24 hours. Moreover, groups of settlers have made provocative tours of the al-Suwwanah neighborhood and harassed citizens on a daily basis.

Following this attack, large forces from the Israeli police and border guard arrived at the scene and began investigations into the incident. It has been learned that the assailant settler who drove the Fiat Uno car left for the al-Maskubiyah police station in Jerusalem and lodged a complaint claiming that he was stoned.

It is noteworthy that the Palestinian youths in the al-Suwwanah neighborhood chased the assailant settler group and stoned their cars, smashing the glass of one car.

For its part, Orient House issued a statement this evening vehemently condemning the attack on al-Husayni's residence, considering it as part of the continued campaign of harassment and provocations which the extremist Jews have been carrying out against Orient House for the past four days.

The statement warned against remaining silent on such attacks and also against the dangers posed by their recurrence. It stressed that such incidents create further tension which will not serve the ongoing regional peace process.

The statement also stressed that Orient House will continue to play its role in support of the peace process, exactly as was the case before, during, and after the Madrid peace conference.

Today's attack has crowned the continued provocations carried out by the Jewish settlers, particularly the students of the Jewish Bet Orot Religious Institute on the Mount of Olives in the city where there are continued harassments against Orient House by dozens of members of the right-wing Israeli movements. Today, they staged a noisy demonstration led by Yehoshu'a Matza, head of the Israeli Knesset's Interior Committee, who demanded that Orient House be sealed.

Spokesman Condemns Jerusalem Attacks

JN1406075395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Jun 95

[Statement by the "Palestinian National Authority media spokesman"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of Israeli settlers have over the past few days escalated their provocations against the national institutions and personalities in the city of Jerusalem, especially against Faysal al-Husayni and Orient House. The spokesman said some of these settlers yesterday opened fire near al-Husayni's house, but the Israeli authorities failed to take any deterrent measures against them. He added that today the settlers escalated their provocations against Orient House and around al-Husayni's house by leveling threats and firing gunshots. The citizens confronted these provocations and forced the assailants to leave. The settlers soon returned with fresh reinforcements and reopened fire. The people confronted them again and forced them to leave.

The PNA spokesman said these attacks coincide with attacks carried out by some settlers in Salfit, Qalqilyah, and several other areas under the very sight of the Israeli authorities. He said the PNA believes that this new wave of attacks and the Israeli authorities' silence over them are aimed at harming the peace process. It also views them as an attempt to obstruct the efforts being exerted to reach an agreement on the transitional period that includes the redeployment of the Israeli Army outside the residential areas, the holding of elections, and the assumption of powers. The spokesman added that while condemning these attacks and provocations, the PNA demands the Israeli Government to adopt the necessary measures to close gaps on the Israeli side and put an end to these attempts, which are intended to obstruct agreement on what Israel is required to do at this decisive stage.

Concluding, the spokesman said the PNA calls on its masses everywhere, particularly in Jerusalem, to continue to be alert and vigilant and foil all attempts to explode the situation, harm our institutions, and target our national figures. Thus, they can protect their right

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and existence and work for the realization of their aims, represented in freedom and independence.

Al-Husayni on 1 Jul Date, Meeting With Consuls

NC1306202095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs with the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by unidentified correspondent, in Cairo, on 13 June from the "Talking Newspaper" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, how do you read current Israeli statements and positions?

[Al-Husayni] If we look into the contradicting statements and the kind of redeployment offers made by the Israelis during official negotiations, we will find indications that the Israelis are not serious and that they do not intend to reach an agreement by the beginning of next month. And if we examine their practices on the ground, like the settlement activity, demolition of houses, blockade, and other provocative practices everywhere, we will conclude that some parties are actually out to destroy the very basis of the political process.

[Correspondent] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, if the Israeli officials go back on or linger about the 1 July date, some [Palestinians] will be inclined toward reconsidering everything. If this becomes the dominant trend, what are the positions and subjects that will be reconsidered?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, the negotiator must sit by himself from time to time to evaluate the negotiating process and its progress. In our case, this is extremely necessary and one of the basics of our work. If we reach nothing by the start of July and Israel disregards the date that it set, that will be a serious indication, and we will have to draw conclusions and indeed decide, in an objective and nonemotional meeting, whether they are serious and really want to reach something, or whether they are only buying time to undermine this process and undermine us. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] There were reports today that settlers occupied a number of vacant houses near the industrial area in the West Bank, specifically in Nabulus, to establish a new settlement. Also a house was demolished in Jerusalem today in the presence of the Israeli police and border guards. Did you discuss this subject in your meeting today with the foreign consuls operating in East Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] We discussed these subjects, but basically the invitation for the meeting was related to the withdrawal of identity cards and residence rights from Palestinians in Jerusalem. An Israeli court had ruled that citizen Fathiyah al-Shiqaqi [wife of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shiqaqi] be deprived of her natural right to reside in Jerusalem under the pretext that she lived with her husband abroad for some time and that she gave birth to her children out of the country. They say this deprives her of the right to reside in Jerusalem and of her natural right as a Jerusalemite to live in her country.

[Correspondent] What was the reaction of the consuls?

[Al-Husayni] There was in fact clear denunciation of this Israeli position and full European and international readiness to support us in this issue. Add to this the provocations that took place today, whether the demolition of houses in 'Isawiyah in Jerusalem or the new attempt to expand settlements in Salfit. By this, the Israelis want to prove that the redeployment is aimed at occupying further lands, not to hand over the territories to the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Hamas Leader al-Zahhar on Authority's Failings

MM1206115595 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic 9 Jun 95 pp 13-15

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, "a prominent Hamas leader in Gaza," by Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dialogues have taken place between you and the autonomous Authority in the presence of elements from Fatah in the wake of the assassination of Kamal Kahil and Hatim Hassan and the vendetta operations carried out against the settlements in the Gaza Strip. The information media have recently carried reports about impending agreements due to be concluded shortly as a result of these dialogues. What is the truth about these dialogues?

[Al-Zahhar] True, there were two sessions of dialogue. To alleviate tension, Hamas agreed to listen to what the other side wished to say on the basis of the principle that each side has the right to put forward any matters for discussion and exchange views about them.

However, in the mean time, obstacles were laid in the way of these dialogues by the Authority and its police in the form of night raids, false trials by the so-called State Security Court, disarmament decisions, and similar practices which made it very difficult to make any move toward pacification of conditions between the two sides. No agreements were reached or commitments undertaken at all during the aforementioned two sessions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Have you put forward any specific conditions for the resumption of dialogue during these sessions?

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[Al-Zahhar] We told the Authority that it is essential that a favorable climate should be created for the holding of these dialogues and stipulated as a condition for the resumption of dialogue the ending of night raids, the halting of campaigns of arrests, the release of all detainees, and the annulment of all sentences and trials that have taken place in the State Security Court in addition to the cessation of all unlawful practices by some members of the police such as the collection of arms and other arbitrary measures taken against the detainees.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] With regard to the question of your possible adoption of a decision to temporarily suspend all struggle and resistance operations within the Authority territories, is there such a decision?

[Al-Zahhar] First, we see the current stage as an extension of the previous stage. The occupation is still there and so are its settlements, and they are close to the houses of our people in the Gaza Strip. Second, our attitude toward the Oslo accords is clear and firm and requires no further affirmation. In the light of all this, the resistance equation continues and has undergone no change.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But the Authority says it has demanded a temporary cessation of the struggle operations until 1 July with a view to giving the accords a chance and refuting the arguments and pretexts which Israel uses to procrastinate and defer the question of the expansion of autonomous rule and which essentially center on the continued attacks on the various Israeli targets.

[Al-Zahhar] Irrespective of how superfluous or how profound this argument is, by the measures it took and the practices it initiated the Authority did not give anybody any opportunity to discuss the matters raised. The escalation it has initiated was more like arm-twisting and intimidation.

However, if we were to discuss these Authority statements, we would say that it is Israel that is creating the obstacles and has a vested interest in delaying matters. For secure and quiet borders have been existing between Israel and some of the Arab quarters since 1967, yet Israel has not withdrawn one inch, such as in the case of the Golan Heights, for example.

Furthermore, there are some people who whisper to Israel that it has enough power to crush and eradicate the struggiers and the Islamic movements, that the self-restraint Hamas has been anxious to preserve is actually an element of weakness, and that there are imbalances and currents within the ranks of Hamas. All these are methods and tactics followed by the Israeli occupation, but all have met with abject defeat.

What I mean to say is that the Rabin government is the one obstructing and impeding matters. It is the one undermining Palestinian security in Gaza and Jericho through its intelligence men and agents and the assassination of such martyrs as Nasir Saluhah, Hani 'Abid, Ibrahim Yaghi, Kamal Kahil, and Hatim Hassan.

There is irrefutable proof of the involvement of the occupation authorities in the operations to destabilize conditions in the Gaza Strip. Consequently, Rabin does not want to lose any of the continuing elements and cards of pressure he holds and so he has asked the Authority to destroy and put an end to the resistance. In the face of that, I wish to ask: what prompted Israel to leave the Gaza Strip...? It left because of the blows of the resistance. Had not there been any such struggle operations, the occupation authorities would have never left the Gaza Strip.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Some Authority sources have been saying that the recent operations at Kefar Darom and Nezarim were not directed against Israeli targets but were intended to send a message to the Authority in one way or another. What do you say about this?

[Al-Zahhar] These are totally baseless allegations. The Hamas movement has clarified its position and policy on more than one occasion. It affirmed that every pressure or harassment brought to bear on it will be avenged through operations against the occupation. These allegations are flimsy and can deceive no one. If the Authority is truly concerned about Palestinian security, why does it steer its attitudes in the opposite direction? Where are the trials of the murderers of Nasir Saluhah, Hani 'Abid, or Ibrahim Yaghi? At the same time we see sons of Hamas and Islamic Jihad tried within one night.

Furthermore, what has the Authority done about the agents who threaten security and commit crimes? It has pledged not to touch them. Even when three members of its police force were killed by the Israeli forces, the Authority did not lift a finger. Yet it adopted a hostile attitude toward the crime of the assassination of Kamal Kahil and Hatim Hassan by accusing the martyrs and the strugglers of using a residential house for the preparation of explosive charges and burying the martyrs without anybody's knowledge and by abducting the injured struggler Nidal Dababish and taking him to an unknown place.

I say to those who use the resistance operations as a pretext, have the recent land requisitions in Jerusalem, which numbered over 530, been due to military operations or have they been carried out to serve the Israeli colonialist expansion plan and dream?

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['Abd-al-'Aziz] In the light of what you have said about recent Authority practices, can we say that Abu 'Ammar has decided to wage war against Hamas?

[Al-Zahhar] It seems he has taken some steps along this road and in this direction. The practices and ill-treatment of the citizens and strugglers by members of the police and military intelligence and what we witness in terms of disarmament decisions, trials, and night raids are all indications of such a decision.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What role is the government of the Zionist entity playing in this matter?

[Al-Zahhar] There is a clear and public statement by Rabin and his government instigating the Authority against Hamas and Islamic Jihad and pressuring it into taking further acts of suppression and repression. Rabin says that what the Authority has been doing is not sufficient. This is in addition to the role entrusted to the agents who infiltrate the Authority ranks, some of whom now occupy [public] positions.

There is also U.S. President Clinton, who has said on more than one occasion that it is necessary to strike at the struggle movements on the pretext that they have been carrying out acts of terrorism, within the framework of ferocious campaign against what he terms "fundamentalist terrorism."

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is the response of the ordinary Palestinian in the Gaza Strip and Jericho to all this?

[Al-Zahhar] The ordinary Palestinian now compares the actions of the Authority and those of the occupation authorities. Thus there is a great deal of disgruntlement not only over recent Authority practices but also about the deteriorating economic conditions, the growing poverty and unemployment, in addition to the administrative failure and the wrong way the Authority has been administering its various institutions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] So the Authority has become isolated from the people?

[Al-Zahhar] There are numerous factors pushing things on a large scale toward the authority's isolation from the people. Everyone in the Palestinian street now talks about the uninstitutional way the Authority has been running life and about administrative corruption and anarchy besettting the Authority's ranks. People who are very close to the Authority have been sponsoring such talk, which flourishes in the street publicly and without fear. There is a clear absence of any administrative planning, conditions have been deteriorating day by day, and all this has been contributing to the further isolation of the Authority.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is the Authority's attitude toward this growing decline in popular support?

[Al-Zahhar] I believe that the Authority is no longer concerned about any popular support or mass acceptance since becoming obsessed with feelings of greatness, the power of military force, or the force of arms.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But can we say that a feeling of discomfort now reigns within the Authority's ranks or that there is a current which opposes its policies?

[Al-Zahhar] Naturally there are certain quarters within the Authority which are not happy with what is taking place. But these peoples or quarters cannot tackle this course or stand in its way.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] With regard to the Fatah Movement...can the organizational leaders in the Fatah Movement and specifically those opposed to 'Abu 'Ammar's course, both inside and outside Fatah, do anything to prevent the further deterioration of conditions?

[Al-Zahhar] When the Authority came to the Gaza Strip and Jericho, it made certain vital changes with regard to Fatah. Many of its cadres and specificaslly its security machinery were absorbed within the Authority while the internal leaderships continued to exercise their organizational activities, but after having been stripped of many of their powers and characteristics within the organization of Fatah. I doubt that anyone, internally or externally, can do anything at present to influence what is happening.

['Abd-al-Aziz] With regard to the other Palestinian factions and in particular those opposed to the Oslo-Cairo Accords...what in your view are the nature and importance of the role they perform?

[Al-Zahhar] Frankly, and perhaps with bitterness as well, I say that experience continues to show that these factions are unable to take initiatives. Some of them are still suffering from internal crises. Furthermore, some of these factions have been gradually losing support among the masses.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Now that a year has elpsed since the signing of the Cairo accord and the implementation of autonomous rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho...how does the Palestinian citizen view the agreements with the Zionist enemy?

[Al-Zahhar] The Palestinian man in the street is now more worried than at any time ever about the possible outbreak of Palestinian-Palestinian confrontation. For this reason, all have been urging patience and continued self-restraint. Some of them have been saying this

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openly. We have to be patient. This is our destiny and it has been imposed upon us. But I ask: How long can the Palestinian citizen tolerate Authority practices which are akin to those of the occupation? How long will the sons of the Palestinian people keep quiet and maintain patience when they see that all the policies and measures of the occupation are still there and are being practised by Palestinian hands? The administrative laxity, the anarchy, the ill-treatment, the implementation of the orders of the occupation, and the responding to pressures have all exceeded all limits. For example, the charity societies, which offer a great service, have not secured permits to carry out their activities despite a year having elapsed since the establishment of the autonomous Authority. They are exposed to raids and violations. In short, anarchy continues to reign over everything.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Ghazi al-Jabali recently issued an order banning the use of mosques as platforms for instigation and the spreading of sedition, as he put it. Have there been incidents when mosques were stormed to insure implementation of this decision?

[Al-Zahhar] They have in fact stormed mosques in the same arbitrary manner that used to be practiced by the occupation. They have entered wearing their shoes and done what the occupation soldiers used to do. This aroused the wrath of all those who saw them or heard about the storming operation and the violation of the sanctity of the houses of God.

For your information, the occupation tried these methods and policies but they all failed — indeed, they resulted in the inflammation of anger and the escalation of confrontations and had repercussions which were not in the interest of the occupation at all; nor will they be in the interest any of those who are copying the experiences and policies of the occupation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In the light of the Authority's persistence in escalating matters, do you believe that there is still scope for saving the Gaza Strip from the threats of a civil war?

[Al-Zahhar] We are exerting all possible efforts to save this Strip from taking this dangerous slippery road. But, unfortunately, there are some who fail to see the gravity of the situation clearly and have been trying to fan sedition and to resort to the fabrication of lies and calumnies. In an attempt to arouse sedition, some have been saying that Hamas has been exchanging internal messages as part of a plan to assassinate 'Arafat.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Some Palestinian and international personalities and institutions have been talking recently about human rights violations and political freedoms in the light of some Authority practices against the press and other institutions. How do you view these reports?.

[Al-Zahhar] First we must praise the role of some of the Palestinian societies and institutions concerned with human rights in recording all small and big human rights violations and their criticism of Authority practices and wrong actions, particularly since the Authority started some time back to arrest any member of the media, or even people within its own ranks, for merely uttering anything that differs from what the Authority wants, as was the case with the Authority's civil defence officials who refuted the Authority's version about the Shaykh Radwan crime. In fact, the record of the Authority's violations of human rights is growing longer and longer by the day, with every discharged detainee relating stories of further violations committed against him by the investigators in the prisons.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] For some time Hamas has been the subject of a large-scale campaign of harassment in some Arab countries, including Jordan, as part of the war waged by the Rabin government and the U.S. Administration against so-called "Fundamentalist terrorism." Every now and then Hamas is accused of having links abroad and of receiving material support from, for example, Iran. What comment do you have on this?

[Al-Zahhar] First, with regard to the existence of Hamas outside the occupied territory, I can affirm that the basic structure of the Hamas movement is inside the occupied territories. It has an information and political presence abroad involving some activities in the fields of relations, communications, and political and informational action. This presence could have been in many alternative places inside and outside the Arab countries. But the fact is that Hamas has gone beyond all that to become a popular state that reflects the pulse of every Arab and every Muslim throughout the world.

As to the accusations leveled against Hamas and the war waged by Israel and the U.S. Administration against Islam, they are in part mere means of escape from domestic crises and challenges as well as attempts to push some Arab regimes into isolating and striking at the Islamic movements. This explains the phenomenon of the escalation of the trade war against Iran, which is in fact an Israeli-American joint venture, particularly as the United States has begun to compete with the Israeli Government in serving the interests and policies of the occupation, as has recently been reflected by the attitudes of the U.S. Administration toward the question of the seizure of Arab lands in Jerusalem and the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

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['Abd-al-'Aziz] How do you view the developments taking place now in the Palestine [peace] process? Do you expect some strides to take place in this regard and the resolving of the pending issues such as the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank, the holding of elections, the release of detainees etc?

[Al-Zahhar] It is evident that the Authority has nothing it can use to bring pressure to bear on Israel. The Rabin Government could take take any action, but the Authority would do nothing but continue with the negotiations about trivial matters while the construction of settlements and the threats to and the murder of the sons of our people under torture continue. Consequently anything the Authority could reap as a result of the negotiations will be nothing but trash.

Palestinian citizens have lost all hope about acquiring any real gains, even with regard to the detainees, as nobody in the Palestinian street now has any hope that one single prisoner will be released from the occupation prisons at a time when the conditions of the detainees and the detention camps have been deteriorating greatly and have become very bad indeed. Even the release of scores of detainees announced by the Rabin government was a mere formality, and the formal releases were much less in number than those reported by the news agencies and the occupation authorities. The citizens have now begun to talk with loud voices about the methods used in the discharge of detainees.

Finally, I would like to add that Hamas can absorb everything. It can absorb practices and wrongs. It can even face a civil war. But the question I wish to ask the Authority is this: What will the Authority get out of all this? I leave them to answer this important question.

On Relations With PA

TA1306155095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jun 95 p B2

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, "a senior Hamas activist in the Gaza Strip," by 'Amira Hass; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the day of the interview, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar was busy denying rumors about the establishment of a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] political party. That same day, the papers reported that the establishment of an overt political party was "a matter of days." Al-Zahhar, a pediatrician from Gaza and a senior Hamas activist, countered that it was not at all a matter of days: "A political party will not come instead of Hamas but will be another arm, just like the university in the educational sphere and the Islamic societies in the area of social welfare. It will not change Hamas' political or other positions."

[Hass] A year after the transfer of power to the Palestinian Authority [PA], do you think there has been an improvement in the health system in Gaza?

[Al-Zahhar] A Palestinian representative in the Civilian Coordination Committee says that committee members run into many difficulties when patients need to be transferred to the West Bank or Israel for treatment. At this point the Egyptian option remains out of reach. The number of beds and the variety of medications and equipment (that the health system can buy) has not yet changed significantly. In order to make a decision we must go through a great deal of red tape.

[Hass] What about preventive medicine?

[Al-Zahhar] This is an area that cries out for improvement, but the level can hardly be raised without improving the infrastructure. Sewage still flows in open canals in the refugee camps. For example, where I live, in downtown Gaza, we have not had water in two days, not a drop.

[Hass] Did you not call the municipality to see what was going on?

[Al-Zahhar] In actual fact, there is no municipality. Let me give you an example: The municipality gave the Islamic University a license to build a permanent building, but one word was enough to call everything off.

[Hass] Do you mean orders from high up?

[Al-Zahhar] Yes.

[Hass] Is the situation today different from what you expected a year ago?

[Al-Zahhar] Even before the PA was established we knew that nobody would be able to do and manage everything on his own, that there would have to be a system of management that enables the right person to be in the right job. But this did not happen in reality. In every area the officials appointed are those who are the most faithful. Managing civilian issues is not a matter of factionalism. It is a matter that concerns all Palestinians, and every one of them must take part in the development and management process.

[Hass] What about the PA's political status?

[Al-Zahhar] From the outset we expected the PA to be a new arm for the execution of Israeli policy. Now they are conducting joint patrols to protect the settlers and the roads leading to the settlements. They collect weapons from Hamas members that are meant to protect them from collaborators. People cannot bear what is going on. I think the PA has lost a great deal of the public's

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sympathy. If elections are held, I doubt that they will win.

[Hass] Do your tactics correspond with your plans?

[Al-Zahhar] In fact, the situation is much worse than we thought, not just for Hamas but also for Fatah. They are also suffering. All the organizations are suffering at the hand of the so-called Palestinian Authority. And, we find that there is a difference — both in behavior and attitude — between the PA and Fatah.

[Hass] Where did the tactics you planned fail?

[Al-Zahhar] We had hoped these people would give others an opportunity to build the society. But, I am sure that they are not interested in civilian conditions. They are interested in military power, but such power is in effect no power. Israel failed as a (military) power in its attempt to rule here. Why would they want to emulate a power that failed? Their assessment of the situation is wrong and they do not understand the attitude of the people. They lived abroad all this time. The perpetrators of the intifadah can revive it, and in a more acute fashion. Hamas had hoped it would be given an opportunity to help people in the civilian sphere.

[Hass] In other words, you had hoped to attain a modus vivendi with the PA.

[Al-Zahhar] We had hoped to expand the scope of joint interests. In reality, the exact opposite happened.

[Hass] According to the PA, it happened because of the actions of Hamas' military arm.

[Al-Zahhar] Most of those were acts of revenge for Israeli attacks. The military arm stopped the attacks on Israel (from within the PA's boundaries) until Hani 'Abid was murdered. His killing was a message to Hamas and Islamic Jihad that "we (that is, the Israeli Shin Bet) are after you." The military arm had to take revenge to prevent additional killings. What happened to Kamal Kahil (a wanted 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam man who, so Hamas alleges, was assassinated by envoys of the Shin Bet in the al-Shaykh Radwan on 2 April) also called for revenge, which is what happened. The collaborators who implement Israeli policy are the ones who led to the deterioration of the situation. Their actions are reflected in the PA's misbehavior. In my opinion, they could not care less about their popularity since they are so focused on their own power.

[Hass] Did the terrorist attacks from within the PA's boundaries stop because Hamas cares about public opinion?

[Al-Zahhar] I am no expert in military attacks and I do not deal with this issue. My assessment is that there has been a drop in the number of attacks, including in the occupied territories.

[Hass] Are you talking about the West Bank?

[Al-Zahhar] Yes. As I said before, I am no expert in such issues. I believe that the people involved in military operations could give you an answer.

[Hass] You keep reiterating that the political leadership here has not control over the military arm.

[Al-Zahhar] No, no. We have control, but from the outside.

[Hass] If so, control is being exercised by people who are not as familiar with the reality here as you are.

[Al-Zahhar] People outside (the leaders of Hamas in other countries) are in contact with the political leadership here, and guidance to the military arm can be given in these contacts. Military activists live the same reality we do. They listen to people, to declarations. They feel the pulse of the people.

[Hass] Your organization has been evolving the same way the PLO did, with the leadership outside the territories rather than the people here deciding on policy. That is how they gradually lost touch with the reality. Hamas, on the other hand, gained prominence shortly after the intifadah began because your leadership was here.

[Al-Zahhar] Indeed, Hamas members benefited from this fact. They chose a policy in accordance with the situation. So far there has been no contradiction between the two arms and their feelings.

[Hass] You say there are contacts with the outside leadership, which means that you have voiced your opinion. What do you think about the terrorist attacks from within the PA's boundaries?

[Al-Zahhar] Tell me what the alternatives are. What makes people behave this way? They were forced to pursue this way after the failure of the peaceful efforts and Israel's aggressive reactions.

[Hass] Going back to public?opinion, I frequently hear people complain that Israel tightened the closure because of Hamas' military operations.

[Al-Zahhar] The PLO uses this argument in the media to criticize Hamas. Has the quiet (the halt in attacks) in the last few months improved the situation? The answer is no. Hence, people say today that their previous assessment (that the attacks were to blame for the difficult situation) was incorrect. They analyze the situation and think that it stems from the failure of the PA and the administration. One could compare it

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with what happened to Anwar al-Sadat. The peace with Israel was portrayed as a way to improve the citizens' life in Egypt. There was no improvement after the implementation of the so-called Camp David agreement, and people who had previously sided with al-Sadat were not even sorry when he died. Let us wait and see what happens if Hamas stops its military operations against the settlers or military targets. The same thing will happen (as did in Egypt), or even worse.

[Hass] As far as Hamas is concerned, it is very wise to halt the military operations, regardless of who issued the order. You are thus giving an opportunity to people....

[Al-Zahhar, interrupting] Wise or unwise, it is a decision made ad hoc, as warranted by the situation. Take for example the murder of Hani 'Abid. It would have been unwise to sit down and do nothing. In my opinion, everything — the attitude of people, public opinion, public image, Fatah's position, the position of other factions, the position of members of Hamas — all these are under constant scrutiny and monitoring.

[Hass] Is the decision to stop or go on carrying out attacks based on that scrutiny?

[Al-Zahhar] What are military operations? Is it a means or is it an end? It is a means, and if a means serves an end then we will use it. If it does not, why use it?

[Hass] And what is your goal?

[Al-Zahhar] Our goal is constant and unchanging.

[Hass] An Islamic state in all of Palestine?

[Al-Zahhar] Yes, of course.

[Hass] Is it an attainable goal?

[Al-Zahhar] Perhaps not in our lifetime, but we have no right to change our attitude and there is no chance we will. It is not a personal belief, but the decision of the Koran that an Islamic state will indeed be established at one stage or another. We must do our best to attain this goal, which calls for numerous efforts.

[Hass] What are you doing now to attain this goal?

[Al-Zahhar] All the operations of Hamas, of all its arms, are meant to serve this goal. The failure of other methods, as well as the failure of the Arab regimes to meet the needs of the Palestinian people, serve our goal. When a person is downtrodden he thinks about alternatives, and the alternative is Hamas, not the Popular Front or the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]. If they treat the people unfairly, they strengthen Hamas — and they are treating them unfairly now. Even Fatah members urge us. More than once they tell us: "You are the people who can stop the tyrannical behavior of the PA and introduce a policy that is more amenable to the people."

[Hass] In other words, are you concentrating your efforts on strengthening an alternative system of social services?

[Al-Zahhar] We are concentrating on the social system, on education, problems, the attitude toward people — all spheres of life.

[Hass] Are you hoping to win people's hearts and support by presenting a better administrative-social system that is not necessarily based on Islamic ideology?

[Al-Zahhar] No, no. People are religious to begin with, but their faith can be measured on a scale from 0 to 100. We are going to raise it, from 0 to 3, to 5, and all the way to 100. Our efforts are not only centered on the social, ideological, or military aspect. The sum total of our activities will win over the sympathy of our people.

[Hass] You mentioned al-Sadat. Are you saying that 'Arafat is going to meet the same fate he did?

[Al-Zahhar] Al-Sadat is a perfect example of a man who lost everything. There are many examples of tyrannical regimes. In democracies leaders are replaced in elections. In dictatorships they lose their power and control, as well as their lives. We do not wish to become yet another model of tyranny. We yearn for the establishment of a just regime. We do not want to see corruption, and we wish 'Arafat and others to be given the opportunity to help people and serve them.

Hamas Communique No. 122

MM0906110095 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic 9 May 95 p 7

[Hamas Communique No. 122 dated 7 April 1995: "Our People's Struggle Will Continue Despite All the Massacres and Plots"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our patient Palestinian people. You who have suffered great injuries and against whom the forces of evil and rancor had rallied to undermine your will and annihilate your determination and insistence on continuing to march on the course of Jihad and struggle against the invaders. You have endured your wounds and withstood all the plots of the enemies and the rancorous. Thus you have not succumbed nor weakened.

Yesterday witnessed the massacre of the Filastin Mosque and the assassination of martyr Hani 'Abid. Today has witnessed the massacre of Shaykh Radwan quarter. Every passing day has shown the dimensions of the Zionist plot aimed at liquidating our people's

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strugglers and silencing an opposing voice which declared its rejection of the Oslo plot and its humiliating terms that detract from the right of our people and our nation.

It is not Hamas that squanders the Palestinians' blood and exposes their lives to danger. It was Hamas that avenged their lives that were lost at the Hebron massacre.... It is Hamas that is extremely anxious to save every drop of Palestinian blood.... It was Hamas that endured its wounds and repeatedly suppressed its wrath in the face of the foolish and irresponsible provocations and practices in order to rob our cunning Zionist enemy of the opportunity to carry out his designs and intrigues. This enemy has been subjecting the feeble autonomous [Palestinian] authority to a constant campaign of instigation to push it to suppress our people and curb the honorable struggling voices which had robbed the Zionists of their sleep, spread panic and fright in their hearts, and drove them to flee from the inferno of the rebelling [Gaza] Strip.

The massacre of Shaykh Radwan quarter that was committed against the al-Qassam heroes and the innocent peaceful sons of our people, was a planned crime behind which were sinister hands. It followed an intensive Zionist campaign of pressure on the autonomous authority to instigate it against the Hamas Movement and followed the Zionists' linking of the second part of the Oslo Accord to the striking at and suppression of the Mujahidin. It has taken place under the shadow of the continued heroic Jihad operations in Hebron and other Palestinian cities, and has placed the terrorist Rabin and his government in an electoral impasse. It has also come under the shadow of the faltering negotiations between the autonomous authority government and the government of the Zionist enemy which refuses to offer any real concessions that would strengthen the position of the autonomous authority, alleviate the crisis it finds itself in, and convince the Palestinian people of the usefulness of the negotiations process and of its possible success in easing their suffering and improving their living conditions. The Rabin government has persisted with its stubborn attitude during the meetings of the evacuees committee and refused to offer any concessions in respect of their cause. It insists on imposing its vision and full conditions in regard to the autonomous authority and refuses the redeployment of its forces away from the [West] Bank cities. The maximum it offered was a partial formal withdrawal from the city of Janin.

The obduracy of the Zionists did not confine itself to the negotiations with the defeated autonomous authority which is impotent on the level of politics as well as on the popular level..

The same thing applies to the enemy's negotiations in regard to the Syrian peace process, as the survey of public opinion has revealed the expansionist aggressive nature of the Zionists and their refusal to withdraw from the occupied Golan. The enemy government also refuses to adhere to the provisions of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and insists on continuing with its nuclear program.

Our struggling Palestinian people. Masses of our Arab and Islamic nation.

The autonomous authority government, which no longer has the power to do anything other than offer concessions and succumb to the conditions and dictates of Zionism, in line with the nature of the role assigned to it under the Oslo Accord, has responded to the pressures and waged a large-scale campaign of arrests against the heroes of al-Qassam and the preachers at the mosques. Some of the autonomous authority's henchmen have begun to utter threats and provocative statements against Hamas, the latest of which were 'Arafat's statements to the Zionist newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT in which he threatened to crush the strugglers whom he considered "extremists" who deserve annihilation.

Things did not stop at the uttering of provocative statements and irresponsible threats and the announcement of the formation of joint security committees in conjunction with the Zionist intelligent machine. Indeed, things went further, to the pursuit of the strugglers and their arrest and submission to the so-called State Security Court whose formation 'Arafat boasted about to the Zionists and U.S. officials as a step and an indication of his seriousness in responding to the Zionist pressures and in ensuring security for the Zionists.

Our struggling Palestinian people.

Our Zionist enemy is mean and cunning and understands nothing other than the language of force. He hatches plots against our people's strugglers, and members of his army and police and the hordes of his settlers attack unarmed innocent people as was the case with martyr Usamah al-Burnu who was killed in cold blood. The Zionist enemy is continuing his bestial aggressions and is bombing the innocent peaceful people in steadfast southern Lebanon.

Instead of realizing the true nature of the treacherous Zionist enemy and thus retracting from the sins it has committed against our people, the defeated Oslo team has been asserting and affirming, through its showy institutions and various committees, its determination to continue along the road of squandering rights, offering concessions, and submitting to the dictates of the Zionist enemy.

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We in the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, wish to affirm that all the plots will not be able to divert our people and their battalions away from continuing with their sacred duty of resisting the invading Zionist enemy. While affirming that the blood of our martyrs will not go unavenged, we wish to affirm the following:

Firstly: on the external level.

1. Hamas calls on the Arab and Islamic nation to denounce the massacre of Shaykh Radwan quarter and to support the struggle of our Palestinian people against the occupation.

2. Hamas denounces the barbaric attack and shelling of southern Lebanon and greets the Lebanese Islamic resistance which has been standing honorably and courageously in the face of the blustering of the Zionist enemy and his continued aggressions. It also praises the stands of the Lebanese Government and its stand alongside the resistance.

3. Hamas condemns the absolute international silence on the attempted annihilation of the Muslim Chechen people and call on the Arab and Islamic nation to support the struggle of the Chechen people and their just cause.

Secondly: on the internal level.

1. Hamas offers its heroic martyr Commander Kamal Kahil and his other heroic brothers as a sacrifice to God Almighty and calls upon the al-Qassam Battalions to reply fiercely and deal painful blows to Zionist targets.

2. Hamas calls upon our Palestinian people to declare their wrath at the new barbaric massacre and calls upon the autonomous authority to shoulder its responsibilities and stop fabricating lies and calumnies.

3. Hamas denounces the autonomous authority's campaign of arrests waged against strugglers, preachers, pressmen, and human rights workers and calls upon it to immediately release the detainees and stop its suppressive practices and its violation of freedoms and human rights.

7 April 1995.

Hamas Communique No. 123

MM1206104195 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic 9 June 95 p 7

[Hamas Communique No. 123 dated 6 May 1995: "Let All Efforts Unite To Face Up to the Colonization Plot"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our struggling Palestinian people; Masses of our Arab and Islamic nation:

The enemies and the rancorous have thought that the massacres and plots committed against the struggle of our people would break the will of our strugglers and turn them away from the course of struggle and resistance. But they have failed miserably and lost all their bets. For our people have proven that they do not keep quiet about injustice nor run away from exacting revenge.

So greetings to the two martyr heroes Khalid al-Khatib and 'Imad Abu Ammunah who carried out the operation of Kfar Darum and Nitsarim in revenge for the massacre of Shaykh Radwan quarter. Greetings also to Jihad Ghulmah, 'Amir al-Natshah, and 'Adil al-Falah, the heroes of Hebron, who fell victims of Zionist treachery and meanness.... Greetings also to the heroes of the battalions of martyr 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam and the struggling Islamic forces and to all the strugglers of our heroic people.

Our struggling Palestinian people:

Our cunning Zionist enemy has cast away all agreements and promises and embarked on a large-scale colonialist campaign in our Palestinian land in holy Jerusalem. Our enemy's soldiers and special units have continued their crimes, assassinations, and cowardly, treacherous actions against our Palestinian people's strugglers in Hebron and in the Zionist prisons and detention camps. They have assassinated Jihad Ghulmah and 'Amir al-Natshah and 'Adil al-Falah, the heroes of Hebron. They have resorted to methods of barbaric torture in their investigations with the heroes of our people. Thus they have killed martyrs 'Abd-al-Samad Hurayzat and Ma'zuz Dallal without these crimes arousing any reaction from the world which usually frets so much whenever a Zionist settler or soldier is killed!!

The Authority of the flimsy autonomous rule, which acts with the ferocity of a lion against the sons of our people and wages large- scale campaigns of raids and arrests against them in retaliation for the operations which our strugglers carry out against Zionist targets...and arrests hundreds of them, and whose so-called State Security Court passes wrongful sentences against our strugglers under pressure from the Zionists, this Authority contents itself with submitting protests and complaints and affirming its determination to continue with the negotiations despite the Zionists' crimes of assassinations and seizure of lands. Can there be more impotence than that? Can there be more humiliation than that?

Our heroic Palestinian people:

The Hamas Movement fully realizes the true objectives of Zionism which aims at submerging the Palestinian people in a quagmire of internal conflicts to divert our people's struggle from its true course of facing up to the

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objectives of the occupation and to deplete the energies of our people's struggling forces.

For this reason, Hamas has made a point of responding to all the good efforts exerted for reconciliation and the elimination of all causes of tension and congestion within the ranks of our people, and thus declared that it will never be on the side of anything other the unity of our people and all things that could safeguard their security, stability, and the blood of their sons.

But the autonomous Authority, which has acquiesced to the Zionist pressures and blackmail, is no longer able to deal with the interests of our people and their ambitions and has become closely tied to its [the Zionist] plans and objectives.

By what right does the autonomous Authority want to bind the forces that reject the humiliating Oslo Accords by the provisions and obligations of those accords?!! In whose interest does the Authority launch these large-scale raids and campaigns of arrests against the strugglers, men of the press, students, and university professors!! Who will be the beneficiary of the decision to gather arms from the strugglers and of the passing of scores of wrongful sentences by the feeble autonomous Authority State Security Court against the strugglers and heroes of our people!!

Our people, who have rejected the oppression of and rebelled against the Zionist occupation authority, will not accept to see the autonomous Authority using against them the same practices as the occupation authorities used — raids, arrests, false sentences, violation of the freedom of the press and human rights, the keeping of a watch on mosques and the harassment of Islamic institutions, suspect attempts to disarm the strugglers, and the stipulation of the signing of pledges as a condition for the release of detainees.

Our patient Palestinian people:

Our people had expected the autonomous Authority to take a decisive response against the plans of land seizure and the Zionist crimes committed against our people. But instead of rushing to suspend its abortive negotiations with the stubborn Zionist enemy, the autonomous Authority rushed to hold the resistance operations responsible for the nonexpansion of the powers of the feeble autonomous Authority and embarked on a campaign of open treachery aimed at linking the expansion of the autonomous Authority to the cessation of resistance operations against the Zionist enemy. The autonomous Authority has pretended to forget that the Zionist army left the inferno of Gaza to flee the operations of the resistance which had robbed it of all sleep and made it wish the Gaza Strip would drown in the sea. The autonomous Authority has also turned a blind eye to the repeated Zionist enemy procrastinations and retractions from the "unholy" promises he had made under the flimsy Oslo Accords. What deception then is the autonomous Authority is carrying out against our people? Does it think that our people will any longer be taken in by fabrications and open false allegations?

While declaring its rejection of all the suspect plots being hatched with the aim of disarming the strugglers of our people and placing them in detention camps, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, wishes to affirm its adherence to Jihad and the resistance of occupation wherever it may be, as a strategic option from which there can be no retraction. It also calls for the following:

Firstly, in the external field:

1. The Hamas Movement congratulates the Arab and Islamic nation on the occasion of the blessed feast of 'Id al-Adha and calls upon it to show solidarity with the struggle of our Palestinian people and to stand by its struggling forces.

2. The Hamas Movement calls on the Arab and Islamic nation and regional and international institutions to stand up to the designs of Zionism which aim at devouring more and more of the Palestinian land and to stand firm in the face of these grave plots.

3. The Hamas Movement salutes the heroic operations waged by the valiant Islamic resistance in the steadfast Southern Lebanon against the Zionist objectives and calls upon them to deal further painful blows to the Zionist enemy.

4. The Hamas Movement denounces the silence shown by international and humanitarian institutions in the face of the crimes committed by the Zionist authorities against the detainees, which resulted in the death of the two martyrs, 'Abd-al-Samad Hurayzat and Ma'zuz Dallal last April. It also calls on these institutions to stand up to the occupation authorities for their violation of human rights and their resort to barbaric methods of torture in their investigations with the detainees.

5. The Hamas Movement thanks the Arab and Islamic personalities who the Memorandum of Solidarity with the Palestinian People for their support for the resistance of the Palestinian people and its struggling forces against the forces of occupation headed by the Hamas Movement.

Secondly, in the internal field:

1. The Hamas Movement offers martyr Khalid al-Khatib, the hero of the Kfar Darum operation, and the hero 'Imad Abu Ammunah, the hero of the Nitsarim

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operation, and martyrs Jihad Ghunmah [as published; rendered earlier as Ghulmah] and 'Amir al-Natshah and 'Adil al-Falah, the heroes of Hebron, as well as martyrs 'Abd-al- Samad Hurayzat and Ma'zuz Dalal, as sacrifices to God, and calls upon the al-Qassam battalions and all the struggling forces to deal painful blows to the objectives of the Zionist occupation.

2. The Hamas Movement condemns the repressive measures taken by the autonomous Authority and calls upon it to cease its practices and to immediately release all the detainees as well as to abolish the State Security Court and annul its false sentences against the heroes of our people.

3. The Hamas Movement congratulates our Palestinian people on the occasion of the feast of 'Id al-Adha and calls upon the sons of our people to show solidarity with the families of the martyrs and detainees.

6 May 1995.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Decision on Elections in Territories Reported

TA1406102995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jun 95 p 7

[Report by Ilana Baum]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the discussions between the Palestinian and Israeli teams on the implementation of the second stage in the Declaration of Principles, it has been decided that elections will be held in the territories 22 days after the initial withdrawal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops.

Israeli sources participating in the negotiations said that the elections would be democratic and monitored by supervisers from the EU, the United States, Russia, Japan, Denmark, Canada, Jordan, and Egypt. Approximately 80 percent of the residents in the territories are expected to vote.

During the first stage, Israel will be responsible for security in the West Bank, with the exception of small areas under Palestinian control, such as Jericho. Joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols will operate in cities such as Janin, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm, which will be turned over to Palestinian control, and "safe passages", like the one linking Jericho and the Gaza Strip, will be established. Maps of the IDF's redeployment are being drawn up in the framework of the negotiations.

One of the most serious problems in the talks is that of water: the original intention was to build separate water systems for Palestinians and Israelis; however, due to the high cost of such construction — 180 million shekels — there will be communal pipelines in some areas.

Israel's Namir Meets Tunisian, Turkish Officials

TA0906184195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Israeli] Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ora Namir held a meeting with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Geneva today. The meeting was held within the framework of a reception for labor ministers participating in the International Labor Organization conference. Our correspondent Hezi Makhles reports that Minister Namir thanked the Tunisian president for Tunisia's help in the peace process.

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 9 June carries a related report by Paris-based correspondent Eldad Beck adding: "Turkey's justice minister this afternoon informed Minister Ora Namir, whom he met in Geneva, that the persons responsible for the assassination attempt on the head of the Jewish community in Ankara have been apprehended. He refused, however, to divulge additional details."]

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Algeria

FIS: Armed Struggle 'Necessity' Not 'Choice'

BR0906130495 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 9 Jun 95 p 13

[Report on interview with FIS officials Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham by Guido Santevecchi in Algiers; date not given: "Let Us Talk, for Allah's Sake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers — There were no bearded fundamentalists outside the building that we were looking for. We were shown the entrance by a throng of street urchins who for a moment stopped chasing their ball in the yard between four ugly housing blocks. Algiers looks like a children's city. The whole of Algeria is a land of children: Of its 27 million inhabitants, at least 60 percent are under 25 years old, and over half of them have no job or any reasonable prospect of finding one.

The men were up on the third floor, seated round a table, and they seemed nervous. Perhaps they were afraid that the European reporter had brought a police "guardian angel" with him. Ever since the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] pledged to "run through anyone who uses the pen" against them, the regime has assigned escorts to foreign press correspondents, providing protection but also constant supervision. But this time we evaded their hospitality. This, because the men on the third floor were two leaders of the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Front, which was outlawed three years ago when it was winning the election. And they cannot be blamed for not liking the gendarmes: They spent a couple of years in prison, accused of undermining state security. They were released in February 1994, when President Lamine Zeroual tried to resume the dialogue with the fundamentalists in order to halt the bloody power struggle that destroyed at least 40,000 lives.

But in October the dialogue was broken off, and the upper hand in the regime was taken again by the so-called "eradicators," the advocates of the violent elimination of the Islamic party. This simple and brutal policy was unambiguously explained thus by Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane-Cherif: "It is all over with the fundamentalists. You cannot talk to people who adopt violence as their credo; people who slit women's throats, rape them, and mutilate their breasts; people who kill innocent foreign guests."

Actually it is impossible to imagine that the white and well- manicured hands of the two FIS leaders facing us could grasp a blood-stained dagger. "Before these events, I used to teach mathematics; I was principal of the school," Ali Djeddi said. Then, turning to Abdelkader Boukhamkham — who looked like some country priest, with his red beard and sun-tanned face — he explained: "He used to be a teacher at Algiers University; he looked after the library."

[Santevecchi] The regime says that the dialogue is over. That the fundamentalists know only the language of violence. [Santevecchi ends]

Before replying in French, Djeddi consulted with Boukhamkham in Arabic: "We are in favor of a political solution to the crisis, which is why we are persecuted. We are forbidden from speaking in public, we are threatened. There has not yet been any dialogue in Algeria."

It was precisely in order to make known to the people of Algeria the proposals of the opposition that the parties that established a platform for dialogue at Rome's Sant'Egidio convent in January are to hold a public meeting at the Harcha theater today. Djeddi and Boukhamkham are to be there too, but they may not speak, or they will be arrested. The climate is tense, and yesterday the Communications Ministry punished by suspending their publication three newspapers that carried the announcement of the meeting, signed by the FIS, among others.

[Santevecchi] But you were released precisely in order to negotiate.

[Djeddi] They led us, and you, to believe that this was so. All we leaders of the FIS were in prison, isolated. We knew nothing about what was happening in the country, not even about our own families. Then contacts began with Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, and the others. They asked us to issue an appeal to the people for calm. We replied that first we needed to acquaint ourselves with real conditions, to consult with all the other members of the political leadership, whether in detention, in hiding, or in exile — including those who had taken up weapons. They released five of us, in February last year. [Djeddi ends]

They spoke more and more slowly, weighing their words, seeking the right nuances, translating from Arabic to French: "We had a plan in several stages. Our first proposal was to release the political prisoners: In order to engage in dialogue you need political cadres. But the government clearly was not in earnest, and we received no reply. For months now we have had no further contact with Madani and Belhadj."

[Santevecchi] Have you observed differing positions, contrasts among representatives of the regime? [Santevecchi ends]

The answer was some time coming. They consulted in Arabic. Djeddi resumed talking, with Boukhamkham

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wringing his hands as he listened: "Zeroual was extraordinarily fortunate. He was on leave, he was recalled, he was not personally involved either in the outbreak of the crisis nor in the repression. We pointed this out to him... We told him, 'you could be the man to find a solution; we will go with you along this path.' We proposed peace on the basis of a return to democracy; they did not answer us." After another pause, he added: "But an answer would still be welcome."

It was 1645. The two officials stood up. They returned after 10 minutes. "Please excuse us; it was time for prayers."

[Santevecchi] In recent weeks Islamic armed groups have suffered very heavy losses. There is talk about successes by the military, about your elimination.

[Djeddi] Consider these "military successes" from the people's viewpoint: There are casualties on both sides, both among the forces of order and among the so-called terrorists. It is only Algerian families that are suffering. You cannot be proud to state that people are being killed: A family is just a family. No, we do not believe in elimination... We have information from the field. And we of the FIS, as a political party, are opposed to the idea of taking power by force. We are opposed to dictatorship, even under a religious disguise. We wrote this in the Rome Platform. But ever since Belhadj made that peace offer, he has disappeared back in prison.

[Santevecchi] Many crimes are committed in the name of Islam.

[Djeddi] We oppose acts of violence against innocent people not direct involved in this confrontation. We are willing to condemn the authors too, when there is an agreement to conduct a peace dialogue. But do not ask us to condemn these acts and to allow the government to choose the guilty parties.

[Santevecchi] But there are some terrible crimes: Who are the killers? [Santevecchi ends]

They consulted again. "It is difficult to answer. There is an armed opposition... When the government appears in disguise and forms militia groups, how should we behave? For us, the armed struggle is not a choice, but a necessity. Of course the gendarmes and the military are victims, too. Sometimes when they stop us for checks they ask us: "Is there as solution to end this?" Then some of them tell us confidentially: "We are shields for the government."

[Santevecchi] What about the journalists, intellectuals, and foreigners who have been murdered?

[Djeddi] The presence of foreign journalists does not frighten us; indeed it is useful. We are here to talk with you.

[Santevecchi] Your political blueprint is to build an Islamic state. [Santevecchi ends]

There was a long pause: "This is not the time to talk about it. First, peace; then we will talk to the people and explain that this is another stage. Then, even if our objective is not liked, this is not the way to combat it."

It was late, and it is not healthy for a foreigner to wander round Algiers in the dark.

[Santevecchi] You say that there is no hatred on your part, that journalists are welcome. So presumably we can go to the casbah to talk with people. [Santevecchi ends]

Boukhamkham shook his head. Djeddi replied: "Oh, no, no, there are too many weapons about. Go back to the safety of your hotel. It is sad, yes, it is very, very sad."

Article Details 'Miserable' Situation in Chlef

95AF0080A Algiers LIBERTE in French 8 Apr 95 pp 1-3

[Article by Abderrahmane Dj.: "The Hovels of the Resistance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Just 200 kilometers from the capital, people are living in utter destitution: unfed children digging for roots and nuts, adolescents who have never been to school. And, as if that were not enough, the terrorist violence. In an extraordinary assertion of dignity and patriotism, the people of Chlef are hanging on to both...

Few vehicles traverse this almost deserted road in early afternoon. On the roadside, between Oued Fodda and the town of Chlef, one's gaze is drawn to the dusty sign of the Errahma restaurant. Its doors have been locked for over a year. "Errahma" means mercy, peace. Have mercy and peace abandoned Chlef? One can well believe it, listening to all the stories the people of this angry town have to tell—a town still trying to recover from a catastrophic earthquake that hit 15 years ago. After a fashion Chlef tries to hide its bitterness, colorfully decorating the main street with streamers and signs recalling the victory celebration. From inside one of the town cafes, one can hear tuneful snatches of a song by the late Hasni. Two girls in Western garb are strolling along Avenue Ben Boulaid. In Chlef, not all women wear the veil. Tobacco and newspapers are readily available. On the surface, life here seems quite normal.

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For more than 10 years now, Chlef and its environs have been a gigantic work yard: Excavations have been dug, buildings renovated, others torn down, surfaces paved. The wilaya's master development and urbanization plan called for many projects: housing, electrification, potable water supply, schools. For example, there is a long-term water-supply project, to transfer water from the Sidi Yacub dam via a treatment station with a 75,000-cubic-meter capacity.

But repairing the earthquake damage is not Chlef's only problem. And the news from townsfolk is disturbing: Seventeen people were massacred near Zeboudja. On the Chlef road, out toward Ain Meran, the driver of a commune bus was murdered after being stopped at a false roadblock. More than two months ago, Chlef's governor miraculously escaped death in a booby-trapped vehicle. Twenty-four hours later, a high-ranking national official was the target of an attack. Today, the whole wilaya of Chlef is painfully trying to put behind it the terror and anguish that gripped it more than eight months ago. "The pressure exerted by the armed groups at that time was such that we began to wonder if we were going to make it." A year ago, "dazibaos" [translation unknown] bearing the signature of the armed groups and affixed to walls in the city ordered businesses and government offices to shut their doors. With no security forces on hand, the entire populace of Chlef obeyed the order for a week. "We had no choice. It was follow orders or lose your skin." According to a high-ranking wilaya official, a massive deployment of ANP [People's National Army] troops in the reputed "hot zones" brought substantial results. And the security situation, which reached a horrific nadir last summer, has since shown tangible improvement. "But though the danger is minimal now, it still exists," the official adds. A feeling of insecurity is still palpable. Terrorist ravages continue in Ouled Mohamed, Chorfa, Lala Aouda, "Radar," and "Emergency City." "At about 1800 hours, I go back home and do not come out again until morning. I do not trust anyone," says one citizen, obviously shaken by the loss of his brother, a police officer. The latter's body was found completely mutilated.

Outside the city limits of the wilaya's chief town, the security situation is far from under control. In Chetia, Karimia, and Taougrit, the situation is still worrisome. The terrorists have wrought considerable damage throughout the whole of the wilaya, which has some 959,000 inhabitants. "Property losses amount to several billion centimes, and more than 80 schools have been burned down." Also, four quarries for production of aggregate were forced to shut down because of criminal arson. Production fell from 456,557 cubic meters in 1993 to 194,684 cubic meters last year. Hydro-Canal, the public canal operator based in Oued Fodda, has seen its production drop sharply. This year, wilaya officials expect an industrial upturn. In fact, this year economic activity in the wilaya should be restimulated both by recovery in the industrial sector and by reform of the EPL [expansion unknown]. Also, a short-term recovery plan is now with the banks in final form. Natural gas service to the general public is being increased: The wilaya will benefit from a multiyear connection program in the three communal chief towns of Sidi Akkacha, Oued Sly, and Ouled Fares. Work on that program will begin in 1996.

On this particular spring day, the sun stands high and aloof over the mountains of Dahra. There, a vista of vineyards with their short-stocked stems stretches languorously out to the horizon. The eyes feast on this landscape so full of peace, silence, and calm. Though only in appearance. At the entrance to the town of Taougrit, there is a noisy din. Little tots, poorly dressed and carrying jerry cans, swarm around a water tap. The water is scarce and strictly rationed. The precious liquid flows out of the faucet for only two hours per... week. "We are at the mercy of speculators, whose 'law' is final. A 5-liter jerry can sells for more than 20 Algerian dinars."

As is the case throughout the wilaya, poverty is well "entrenched" here. The unemployment rate is over 90 percent in this rural area. News of the presence of journalists spreads like wildfire. Several men, former commune employees, come up to join us. It's been 14 months since they have seen a paycheck. "For the last few weeks, my children have had nothing to eat but boiled rice," one distraught head of household laments. Situated only about 60 kilometers from the chief town of the wilaya, the locality is totally destitute. Few stores line the town's main street. The cafe is the only place for people to meet and unwind. But it closes at about 1700 hours.

The security situation has its own imperatives: The sports stadium at the foot of the Dahra mountains is occupied today by armored vehicles of the 58th Battalion. Taougrit does not have a stadium or a soccer team anymore. With the massive military presence, residents breathe easier. "But it is not enough," says one of them. The insecurity is still alarming. Events of the last few days offer a sobering example: During Ramadan, inhabitants were plunged into darkness for more than a week. The terrorists had cut several power poles. And atrocities were committed: Less than a month after completing his national service, young Mohamed, 25, was killed while sheltered in his mother's arms. The horror reached its peak in a place called Sidi Moussa, where four members of one family were abducted

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and massacred because they refused to pay the sum of 100,000 dinars demanded by the armed groups. Despite their parents' supplications, two young girls were abducted from their home. The terrorist group that holds the region in thrall is said to be composed of about 60 people. It is led by a man named Belaicha Ahmed, a former secondary school teacher.

In Taougrit, the health center built after the earthquake is in dire straits and raggedly staffed. From 1800 hours on, patients are steered toward other hospitals in the region. The lying-in clinic, despite all its conveniences, is no longer in operation. In fact, it never even went into service, for lack of midwives. "My wife, who came to term less than a week ago, had to be transferred to the hospital in the city of Chlef," one irritated citizen complains. The Taougrit secondary school, where 873 schoolchildren are crammed into a facility built to accommodate 600, no longer has a principal. The person named to that position early this year was unable to cope with the threats from armed groups and the hardships of daily life. The vice principal—who was supposed to temporarily fill in for him—also opted to depart. Without leaving a forwarding address. To get to class, students coming from other neighboring localities have to leave their homes at first light in the morning.

An act of courage, renewed daily, since the terrorists threaten to take reprisals against those who continue to show up for class.

"The commune's bus fleet, which consists of only three vehicles, remains out of operation due to the insecurity prevailing in the region," we were told.

The inhabitants must thus fend for themselves when it comes to transportation. It is like a war zone. With society pauperized, the people are sending out distress signals. But for now at least, no one is listening.

Taougrit is no exception. All over the wilaya of Chlef, resurgent terrorist violence has greatly impeded work on various development projects, some of them intended to reduce the area's isolation. For example, in the commune of Sidi Benaissa, a rural electrification project has been abandoned because of the security situation in this village in the commune of Sidi Akkacha [as printed]. "The enterprises that were supposed to do the work opted to withdraw after the workers received threats." According to estimates from official wilaya sources, the number of households needing electrification is 21,574. In all, the 200 localities concerned require some 1,900 kilometers of power lines. But substantial progress has been made in some areas: Last year, the wilaya installed 330 kilometers of power lines, with 1,892 households connected to 44 relay stations.

Some 6 kilometers from the city of Chlef, Chetia—or "Kabul," as it is familiarly called—is a place where risk-taking is not recommended. Accounts from residents indicate the terrorists can do whatever they want there with impunity.

Chetia's inhabitants come from many walks of life. After the earthquake that ravaged the region in 1980, much of the population resettled there. Few of the people know each other.

"This population movement poses a serious problem in terms of managing the security situation," says a member of the community guard.

Today, with the installation of an impressively equipped ANP garrison, the situation is starting to improve. Tobacco and newspapers are readily available. Schools are operating normally. But in Chetia, violent death continues to take its toll of the citizenry. Four citizens were attacked during curfew—abducted from their domiciles and murdered.

About 20 days ago, the former FNL [National Liberation Front party] kasma [translation unknown], which served as community guard headquarters, was burned down by a group of 30 armed men. Several mujahidin, some months back, were instrumental in forming the community guard groups. Today, there are about 20 such groups in the wilaya. Each is composed of between 32 and 46 guardsmen.

El Hadj A., a former member of the ALN [National Liberation Army], has done much to reeducate his fellow citizens. He himself has killed four terrorists.

"We have no choice but to let our guns do the talking," says Ammi El Hadj, who joined the freedom fighters in 1958 and still bears the scars from the War of National Liberation. He excuses himself for not staying to talk longer with us.

He has to go out on patrol, with some of his fellow guardsmen... On the road from Chetia to Ouled Fares, traffic is moving.

Here and there, on the sides of the paved road, a vendor sells potatoes. At 24 dinars a kilogram. Out of 1,500 hectares scheduled for cultivation in the wilaya this year, only 1,000 are planted. The delay is due to lack of seed. Also, 2,486 applications for drought indemnities totaling 11 billion have been processed.

In Ouled Fares, the population of 125,285 inhabitants is sick and tired of knuckling under to terrorist intimidation.

A goodly number are ready to defend themselves. Some 46 men, young and old alike, have volunteered to serve

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in the communal guard. Most are the sons of "chahid" [translation unknown], mujahidin, or ordinary upright citizens. S.A., age 23, has just completed his national service. He joined the communal guard: "I am a target because I did my national service. I have no other way of defending myself." Many residents want to be part of the guard. But "lack of resources prevents us from increasing its size," says the squad leader. It is easy to see, however, that its existence has made life more bearable for the people of Ouled Fares. Local authorities say that the worst is past, that now people must prepare for the future.

At daira headquarters, as in the other localities, people are mobilizing for elections.

"Sixty voting stations are ready for the presidential elections." In Ouled Fares, there are an estimated 47,300 voters. An examination of the voter lists turned up 19 defective files. Throughout the wilaya, the work of cleaning up the voter lists goes forward without respite.

So far, 9,938 voters have been removed from the list. Also, the new staff at daira headquarters—in place for seven months now—is working hard to improve relations between administrators and citizens.

People are able to pick up their national identity card the same day they apply for it, if the applicant meets all the conditions.

Thirteen development projects have been launched, including irrigation projects, roads, potable water supply, infrastructure, and electrification of wells.

But the people of Ouled Fares must continue to wait patiently and hope.

In fact, the entire population of Chlef is hoping that everything will change, that the nightmare will soon be ended. The Ouarsenis mountains have resounded to the echo of the battle of Ain Defla. From one hamlet to the next, from one hovel to the next, from one mountain to the next, security force operations—each larger than the one before—against terrorist concentrations have veiled the misery and distress of Medjadja and Ouled Fares, El Marsa...

[Begin box]

Night in Sidi Akkacha

Late in the afternoon there is a bustle of activity at the meeting place of the Sidi Akkacha communal self-defense committee. They are getting ready to go out on regular patrol. Some parts of the drill have become totally routine: Vehicles are inspected, weapons are checked, and they make sure there is plenty of ammunition. "We prefer to seek out the terrorists instead of waiting for them to come to us," says one committee member.

At about 2300 hours, the convoy moves out toward the mountains. Toward Bouhellou, a danger zone—like everywhere else in the wilaya of Chlef. A hamlet situated about 15 kilometers from the chief town of the commune. Slowly the vehicles, their lights all extinguished, fade into the dark distance. The black veil of night descends softly on the landscape. As always, the night here is glacially cold.

The vehicle occupants are tense, fingers poised on triggers. Warily they watch for any sign of movement, anything slightly amiss. They stop at the side of the road. Over there, in the fields, is a group of three citizens armed with axes, flick-knives, and clubs. One of them, the youngest, says: "We work in the daytime, and at night we sit under the stars."

And adds: "We are resisting, and we need weapons to defend ourselves."

According to one of our companions, resistance in the commune of Sidi Akkacha began on 17 June of last year.

"That was the day a group of inhabitants, mostly former mujahidin and the sons of chahid, succeeded in repelling a terrorist attack. Since then, the people have recognized our real value."

Several hundred meters ahead is another group of men. They brave the cold night air in order, as they say, to defend their dignity. Ammi Lakhdar, his face half hidden by his grizzled hair and moustache, seems to defy the ravages of time. At age 62 he has the bearing of a military career officer. Armed with his Mat 49, he will keep watch until early morning. "I joined the freedom fighters of Wilaya IV in 1957, and nearly 40 years later I have the impression the War of Liberation is not finished yet."

Close by him, an admiring youth, about age 20, hangs on his every word. Eyes reddened from lack of sleep, he has neither gun nor knife. "I am against those who are content to just hide and wait for death. Even with my bare hands, I want to track these criminals down and have it out with them."

At last we arrive at the sleeping hamlet of Bouhellou.

The men in the convoy's two lead vehicles alight. They proceed to inspect the area. Several split off and disappear into the warren of streets.

Ten minutes later they come back.

One of them signals with his hands: Everything is OK! It is already 0200 hours. The convoy turns around and

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heads toward home. Another sortie is scheduled for tomorrow night.

"The time and itinerary are not announced until the last minute," says the leader of the group. When at war, you take wartime precautions...

[end box]

[Begin box]

Remote Brira

Brira is a hamlet in Algeria's remote interior. To be honest, it is dingy-looking. A place where terrorists operate freely. To get to it, you must traverse winding roads.

The landscape is sun-scorched. A few prickly pears accent the wildness of the scene. A mule loaded with too many jerry cans of water wheezes its way up the hill, followed closely by a little boy in filthy clothing. "Azul," says the boy, as if to remind us that the population of this mountainous region is Berber-speaking. Coming into the village, we see workers repairing the former communal headquarters building, burned down more than a year ago. A few meters beyond, a group of women in Berber dress are busy about their daily chores, setting out to look for firewood.

"Here, we have no water, no natural gas, and no electricity."

Buried deep in the mountains of Beni Haoua, the locality is hard pressed even to claim status as a commune. "The only thing that really attaches Brira to the rest of the country is the national flag flying over the new APC [People's Communal Assembly] building."

The sparse habitations, most of them [word illegible], crudely illustrate the fact that people have not lost their taste for the benefits of independence or modern conveniences. Living conditions are subhuman.

"There is only enough food for one meager meal a week—most often we eat food growing wild that we can boil, such as carrots or acorns. Sometimes, we have nothing at all to eat." An old-looking woman tells her tale of woe. She has been living with her husband and five children in a small hovel since 1960. The husband has no job, and their school-age children are not in school. The only school in the region has been destroyed. The interior of this "dwelling," whose walls stand no more than 2 meters high, reeks with an unbearable smell. The stink of waste water, standing nearby. Three patched-up mattresses, a few blankets, and a cradle constitute most of the decor. In a corner of the room are a small table, some tree branches, and a few utensils. Achour, 22, the oldest son, is out of work. Putting his arms around his little brother, he asks us pointedly: "Is there a state that cares what happens to us? Most inhabitants of this commune subsist off the land. But it is not enough: We lack water and equipment." Somewhere in the warren of hovels, there is a homely faced girl named Houria who does not even know how old she is. She does not know how to read or write. There are many girls here like Houria who have never set foot in a school and are doomed to illiteracy.

Many of Brira's young have deserted the town, in search of a better future and a more decent life elsewhere. Brira's destitution is underscored by the lack of transport. "The only bus, which took people as far as Beni Haoua, was pillaged by the armed groups."

Newspapers never get here.

There is only one miserable store where food provisions can be bought, but its shelves are scantily stocked. There is no clinic.

On the benches of the town's only cafe, a few old people sit and talk....

[end box]

Cost of Essential Goods To Increase This Summer

LD1206162195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Commerce Minister Sassi Aziza held a news conference today, during which he revealed that the implementation of the competitiveness law will start this summer, and prices will also be liberalized. A draft law on quality is currently being prepared. A report on the subject by Ahmed Khida.

[Khida] The items that are listed among those whose price will be liberalized include sugar, coffee, and various other items; excluding milk, bread, and flour; will be subject to supply and demand mechanisms.

[Announcer] Sassi Aziza asked journalists to blame importers rather than the public authorities for price rises in the future. [passage omitted]

Subsidized basic items, the prices of which has been set by the government, such as bread, milk, and flour will also rise, although the minister admitted that Algeria has made a great leap forward in that sphere, and it was now in the final stage of bringing the price of those items in line with the real price; the market price. [passage omitted]

As for other items that are subject to monopoly such as water, electricity, and telephone; the price of these items will rise as deemed necessary by the institutions

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overseeing the provision of these items or services in a way that will be in harmony with the requirements of the restructuring of the institutions. The rises will be decided by ministerial decrees.

Another group of items that are also nominated for price rises include medicines. The rises will be subject to profit margins that will be decided by the state. [passage omitted]

Government To Assist in Enterprise Development

LD1206200395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A news conference on the state's aid to the private and housing sectors was held today at Government House by the housing minister and the minister delegate to the treasury. The latter said that the private sector had benefitted from 160-million-dinar compensations paid to offset losses incurred in exchange operations. Likewise, the private sector debt repayment period had been extended to seven years, plus a three-year period of grace. For his part, the trade minister spoke about the introduction of new measures to restructure the housing sector, mainly ensuring the availability of building materials and liberalizing their prices. He also said that 70 national and regional enterprises were required to prepare a development plan for themselves, and that the treasury had accepted to spend 21 billion dinars for the cleansing of 64 enterprises. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Country Said 'Not Afraid' of U.S. Aid Cuts

NC1406064495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 14 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "Toward Self-Reliance," AL-AHRAM refers to President Husni Mubarak's repeated assertions that Egypt does not expect U.S. aid to continue forever and expects a reduction in this aid next year.

The newspaper says Mubarak's remarks mean that Egypt is not afraid of a reduction or a stoppage of this aid in the next few years. This is because Egypt has entered the phase of self-reliance now that its economy has developed and it has achieved reasonable success in the economic reform process. Egypt now has a foreign currency reserve of over $17 billion.

The newspaper says this aid has been positive in several fields, but there are two important points that must be emphasized. The first point was referred to President Mubarak in his interview with THE WASHINGTON POST. Mubarak called for the application of the principle of reciprocity in relation to Israel, which began to receive such aid at the same time and for the same reason. The second point is that the aid cut must be an incentive for us to depend completely on ourselves from now on.

Joint Military Exercise With U.S. Under Way

NC0906145295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA) — The "Iron Serpent" training exercise involving Egypt and the United States is currently under way within the framework of the joint training plan between the Egyptian Armed Forces and the forces of friendly countries.

Elements from the two countries' paratroopers, commandos, mechanized infantry units, and air force are taking part in the program that began three days ago and will last for three weeks.

The program includes training on long-range strategic air transport of troops and dropping paratroopers and commandos at night to carry out the mission of seizing and securing vital targets while the enemy is using electronic warfare and might possibly use chemical weapons.

The program aims to polish the expertise of commanders and their staff from both sides in planning and organizing such missions and to train the troops in long-range, strategic transport measures.

Musa Briefs U.S, UK, French Envoys on Developments

NC1006145595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with the U.S., British, and French ambassadors in Cairo. Musa said he briefed the ambassadors on the outcome of the Cairo tripartite meeting and on some issues concerning work at the United Nations.

He added that the three ambassadors explained the current situation in Bosnia and the U.S. and European policy on it.

Commenting on the tripartite meeting held in Cairo yesterday, Musa said that Yitzhaq Rabin explained the progress of negotiations on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks and affirmed that there is progress on these two tracks and that the Palestinian-Israeli talks on redeployment and the elections have made progress.

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Musa said President 'Arafat will visit Cairo in the next few days to continue the discussions he began during his previous visit.

Musa, Irish Foreign Minister Hold Talks, Comment

NC1306170595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that his talks with Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring today dealt with the situation in the Middle East, developments in Europe, cooperation between Europe and the Middle East, and the new political situations in the Mediterranean region.

In a joint news conference with the Irish minister following their talks, Musa said the discussions also dealt with the topics on the agenda of the Barcelona conference for the foreign ministers of Europe and the Mediterranean, which is scheduled to be held in November.

He stressed the importance of this conference for boosting cooperation among the countries of the Mediterranean basin, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Musa added: We also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations, and we agreed to promote cooperation in the areas of trade, tourism, and investment.

For his part, the Irish foreign minister said his country appreciates President Mubarak's important role in supporting the peace process.

He praised the excellent relations between the two countries and stressed a willingness to promote them in all areas.

He said his meetings with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today gave him a chance to learn about Egypt's position on the situation in the region. He said this will help Ireland when it assumes the chairmanship of the EU next year.

He said that the EU will play a role in supporting the peace process because it is interested in the achievement of peace in the region. He said the EU will continue its efforts to realize this objective and contribute to the reconstruction projects in the region.

Government Moves Against Islamic Groups Reported

Brotherhood Leaders Arrested

NC1006123095 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Jun 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Security's intelligence service launched a new campaign of arrests against leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] in Alexandria. They arrested Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, a preacher, last Friday [2 June]. He was charged with belonging to an illegal group and voicing its ideas in mosques while preaching the Friday sermon.

On Saturday, the State Security's prosecution office decided to detain him for 15 days.

The intelligence service also arrested Islamic preacher Wajdi Ghunaym, secretary general of the Traders Association in Alexandria, last week on the charge of belonging to the MB. The prosecution office ordered a one-month detention. A number of lawyers were present during his interrogation, including Coptic lawyer Fawzi Jirjis, who demanded his release and said Ghunaym was a moderate Islamic preacher. On Sunday, the prosecution office renewed for an additional month the detentions of Dr. Husam Husayn, former speaker of the Humanitarian Aid Committee, and Dr. 'Izzat Sabri.

In Cairo, the prosecution office released Muhammad 'Ali al-'Arayshi, Dr. 'Ali 'Izz-al-Din Thabit, and Ibrahim al-Bayyumi Ghanim, who were detained on charges of belonging to the MB. It also renewed the detention of nine others for 15 days, including Dr. 'Isam al-'Irayan and Dr. Ibrahim al-Za'farani.

'Terrorist' Group Detained

NC0906171295 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Jun 95 p 8

[Report by Mustafa 'Abduh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bani Suwayf — Counselor Naji 'Abd-al-'Azim, public attorney at the Bani Suwayf Prosecution Office, has ordered the detention of 17 terrorists for 15 days pending investigation. He also ordered the arrest of 11 others who formed a secret organization hostile to the regime.

Investigations carried out by attorneys at the Prosecution Office Ahmad 'Imran and Muhammad al-Ridi revealed that the organization's members planned to commit terrorist actions hostile to the regime and were led by terrorist Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hamidah. They belonged to the so-called Islamic Group Organization.

Two explosive charges and pamphlets were seized with the members. They were charged with belonging to a secret illegal organization that aimed to violate the law and constitution, criminal scheming to commit terrorist actions, and the possession of explosives for use in actions that undermine public law and order.

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International Muslim Brotherhood Said in Disaccord

95LD0060A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 14 Apr 95 pp 26-27

[Article by Hamdi Rizq: "Al-Turabi Conference: The First Nail in the Coffin of the International Organization of the Brotherhood. Cairo Brothers Study Future of International Organization and Al-Turabi's Challenges"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that things will not return to normal between the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the Islamic Front under the leadership of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan. The gulf between the two groups cannot be bridged, even with the passing of time. We can confidently say now that the two sides are merely attempting to contain by various means any possible escalation of violence between their supporters, especially in Khartoum.

Dr. al-Turabi gave an exaggerated welcome to the [Egyptian] Muslim Brotherhood delegation that was headed by Mustafah Mashhur, deputy supreme guide [murshid al-'am] and leader [amir] of the Brotherhood's international organization, who attended the third session of the "Islamic Arab People's Conference" that met from 30 March to 2 April. Mashhur's invitation was a personal one, and not in the name of the [Egyptian] Muslim Brotherhood. The welcome, however, did not reduce the extreme tension that characterized the activities of the Brotherhood delegation in Khartoum. The only mitigating factor was al-Turabi's insistence that Mashhur be provided a seat on the podium at the opening. The conference was attended by Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, who disappeared into the back rows in his famous Sudanese white robes. He thus left to al-Turabi the leadership of the conference, which amounted to the public consecration of al-Turabi's leadership at two levels:

— The first is in Khartoum. The man now has the first and last word in the fortunes of the Sudan. The convening of the conference, attended by approximately 1,000 guests from 80 Islamic and Arab states, is an indication of his ability to control events in the Sudan. This is exemplified by the stratagem that "it is an unofficial conference, which popular organizations have called for" (meaning the Islamic Front and not the Sudanese Government). It is the stratagem that the conference was careful to stress, but reality indicates that it was the Sudanese embassies abroad that extended invitations to all, in an official capacity, on instructions from Dr. Hasan al-Turabi himself and on the recommendation of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir himself.

— The second level is the conferring of legitimacy by the leaders of terror, the world over, on the conference and on al-Turabi's leadership as a replacement for the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood, in the presence of the head of international organization himself, Mustafah Mashhur. He returned empty handed and with a predictable report stressing the need to study the new situation of the Turabi Front and its effect on the so-called standing of the Brotherhood in the Arab and Islamic worlds. This is in the light of the fact that al-Turabi's challenges have reached their climax in this conference to the degree that he denied an Arab character to the conference and suggested that, forthwith, its name be "the Popular Islamic Conference." It is a frank realization of the idea of "nationhood," which al-Turabi is calling for and attempting to spread in Islamic circles outside the Sudan. This is a matter that has intensified the predicament of the international organization that is entering its 14th year practically empty handed, or rather, with a complete inability to organize a single conference like the Turabi conference. On the contrary, most of its meetings are conducted anonymously under the sponsorship of the Turkish Justice (Rafat) Party without even an indication of the names of the participants. The latest report that Mustafah Mashhur prepared on the actual situation of the international organization confirms that the organization is passing through a period of weightlessness, its leadership unengaged, its conferences few in number and confronting the ambitions of its regional leadership, or even its secession. That is what the Kuwaiti Brothers did in 1990. The organization is in need of a newspaper or a magazine capable of representing it and deciding many canon law and denominational matters that are threatening its structure. The idea of the military jihad, for example, and the differentiation between it and terror. It is the same idea that al-Haj Mustafah attempted to proclaim openly at the Turabi conference. There is also the search for permanent and independent sources of funds after the depletion of aid from contributing members and sympathizers with the Cairo Brotherhood creed in the Gulf, a creed that has not had a single significant success so far.

Severance of Relations

If Councillor [mustashar] Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the official Brotherhood spokesman, had done his best to defuse the explosive situation within the Brotherhood following the success of the Turabi conference by insisting that the disagreement with al-Turabi has not reached the stage of severing relations, then the question that poses itself for the Brothers now is why did they attend with this delegation and, relative to them, at this high level. They included nonmembers al-Haj Mustafah Mashhur, Sayf

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al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, Ahmad 'Iz al-Din. Within the framework of the alliance, they included 'Adil Husayn, the general secretary of the labor party and Ahmad al-Kholi, the youth secretary. Of the liberals, there were Rijab Hilal Hamidah, their general secretary, Muhammad 'Amir, the editor in chief of the AL-HAQIQAH [Truth] newspaper, in addition to Lieutenant General Sa'd al-Din al-Shadhli who had a personal invitation. The other five have made no move to support the Brotherhood even if, according to al-Turabi, they were collectively part of a delegation that represented Egypt. Rijab Hamidah told us that there was no coordination with the Brothers and that he had met them by chance at the airport when they were on their way to the conference. In this regard, the response of al-Hudaybi that the presence of the Brothers had been necessary (because "we as a group will not deny ourselves meeting all these Islamic delegations and will not reject such invitations, even if they were to come from al-Turabi. Islamic advocacy [da'wah] requires exchanges of opinion and consultation in addition to consideration of circumstances. After all, it is a revolving conference. There is no need for us to boycott it, and why do so?"), is definitely not sufficient. The disagreement with al-Turabi will not become a severance of relations at all unless al-Hudaybi says so. I also learned that the trip of Haj Mustafah Mashhur's delegation had two main goals:

— First: To search for ways to defuse the tense relations with the Turabi Front and to proscribe the verbal and operational escalation between supporters of the two sides, which has intensified recently. This is especially relevant as the Sudanese Brothers, who belong to the Cairo Brotherhood group headed by 'Uthman Abu Faru, had studied the idea of coming out with violent activities against al-Turabi that could threaten the structure of the Bashir government. This would mean being rid of al-Turabi. The Cairo Brothers counseled inaction, in expectation of reaching a solution to the disagreement, since al-Turabi's end was not going to be at the hands of the Brotherhood.

— Second: To solve the problem of the Sudan Brothers who themselves belong to the group, but who have been in conflict with each other for approximately three years. This disagreement still prevails. In August, 1991 (Safar, 1412, according to the Islamic calendar), a Brotherhood delegation consisting of Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, Sayf al-Islam Hasan al-Banna and Mustafah Mashhur, and headed by the Supreme Guide himself, Hamid Abu Nasr, had failed to resolve it. It reached the stage of withdrawing fealty to the supreme guide by the schismatic group.

Regarding the first, the guidance [irshad] bureau now operates according to several axioms. The most important are the preliminary recognition of the Turabi Front in the Sudan as a group, separate from the mother group in Cairo, keeping out of its way as much as possible and relying on the passage of time. The fall of al-Bashir's rule is the only way of getting rid of the Turabi Front. In leaving things to follow their own course, there is the expectation that it will be by God's ['Amru?] hand and not by that of the Brotherhood.

There is also the need of stressing the avoidance of any moves against al-Turabi before the expansion of the Brothers in Khartoum, of binding them to obedience to him and adopting the principle of "piety" before his practices, which range from robbing them of their mosques to harassing their meetings. This is to be coupled with repeat visits of Brotherhood delegations from the international organization and guidance bureau to Khartoum to calm the state of affairs as much as possible. There is also to be an attempt to prevent the deterioration of the situation with al-Turabi in a manner that would draw the two groups to confrontations whose outcome cannot be guaranteed, permitting other parties to profit from it.

Many factors make the Brothers feel great anxiety about the increase and growth in al-Turabi's power, and the widening of his connections to violent groups, especially Jihad, Hamas, and Hizballah in Palestine and Jordan; al-Nahda (Revival) in Tunisia; and al-Inqadh (Rescue) in Algeria. They all consider Khartoum to be their international terminal with places for concealment and training. It enables them to be supplied and to diminish, to the greatest extent, their subordination to the Brotherhood in Cairo. Also to the greatest extent, it enables them to deepen their links to the Turabi group. Hence their concern to attend the recent conference with prominent leaders like Anwar Haddam from al-Inqadh and Sa'id Sha'ban from Hizballah and many others. Add to that clipping the wings of the Brothers in Cairo by security organs aghast at their recent sudden danger. Their travel and communications have been restricted by a security organization that was successful against all violent Islamic currents taken together. There are also the violent criticisms directed by internal extremist elements at the Brothers to the effect that they endanger the safety of the jihad and that they live for a past that no longer exists. In spite of, and in the shadow of all that, the Brotherhood is betting on the passage of time as the solution to its problems with al-Turabi. However, it is the continuation of the state of affairs of the Sudanese Brotherhood and its expansion in those adverse circumstances that is the real threat to the [Egyptian] Brotherhood's wager now.

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The Sadiq Crisis

On another level, the attempts to contain the disagreements about the expansion of the Brotherhood in the Sudan appear to be unsuccessful so far. This increases the complexity of the situation, especially after the objection of the Sudanese consultative bureau to the decisions of the guidance bureau of the international organization to appoint Sadiq 'Abd-al-Majid to the directorship [imarah] there. This is in addition to having the bureau there [Sudan] take a decision, which was transmitted to the Cairo Brothers, to appoint 'Uthman Abu Faru to replace al-Sadiq and the refusal to appoint each of the prelates Yusuf Nur al-Da'im and Sulayman Abunari as deputies to the head [amir], which is the recommendation that Hamid Abu al-Nasr himself confirmed when he visited Khartoum in Safar, 1412 [August, 1991] and when he accepted fealty from the Sudan Brothers. The surprise, however, took place a week before his return to Cairo and reached the point of withdrawing fealty and appointing Abu Faru, a problem that the Brotherhood's guidance bureau has so far not found a solution for. It is demanding from the Sudan Brothers fealty for al-Sadiq, but they always respond that "Quraysh knows its people [bisha'abiha?] better," and that Abu Faru is more suitable to assume the directorship [imarah] now, especially as he is known for his enmity to al-Turabi. This is a matter that carries the threat of violent activities between the two sides if the period of al-Turabi's incumbency were to be prolonged and his actions against the Brotherhood elements in Khartoum were to increase. The guidance bureau in Cairo maintained its opinion regarding Abu Faru's appointment. The danger lies in calling upon Mustafah Mashhur, praise be to him [mahmudah?], to differentiate between terror and jihad and accurately define each of them. This is the call [da'wah] that he affirmed in his speech before the conference and that will open the gates of hell to the Brotherhood by the Cairo extremists who will look upon that call as a delineation that links them to terror and makes jihad the monopoly of the Brotherhood only. This will intensify the crisis with the Brothers, especially as al-Hudaybi is always stressing in his speeches the he neither knew them nor had any relation with them in an evident attempt to dupe public opinion. As for now, he is demanding a speedy evaluation of the Brotherhood's understanding of the activities of the Islamic Group and of jihad; is it terror as the state considers it to be, or jihad according to Mashhur's new concept? Each of them represents nails in the coffins of the international organization.

Note: None of extremist leaders who are being sought in Cairo attended the Khartoum conference. Why? There is no answer because they are actually to be found in al-Turabi's camps, near the location of the conference.

Editorial Criticizes Government Neglect

95AF0080B Algiers LIBERTE in French 8 Apr 95 p 3

[Editorial by Saddek Arous: "Isolation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our reporting on the Algerian interior reveals the existence of a terrible scourge, one which we thought had been eradicated forever: hunger. A mother who boils grass to feed her children. Citizens, worn down by all their tribulations, piteously ask: "But who cares what happens to us?"

And today some are shocked to find that these disadvantaged social strata are a recruitment pool for terrorists! But it is because those people are suffering not only from hunger but also from social injustice, unemployment, and harsh living conditions.

The people of Chlef are trying to take their destiny into their own hands. Draped only in the tattered rags of their dignity, they defy subjugation, reject the diktat of the terrorists.

Action against the terrorists, including preventive action, must begin by meeting the most basic needs of the citizenry.

Neither departmental governors nor squads of crack ANP [People's National Army] troops can forever suppress the cries of suffering, when a part of the population has every reason to resort to violence.

The people's misery is an indictment of the regime; unfortunately, the latter has rarely cared what happens to the ordinary people whose votes and whose silence helped it consolidate its present hegemony. Today, with the masses still so far removed from the development process, it will be difficult, in any electoral process, to ask them to go to the voting booths and cast their ballots.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Attends U.S. 'Evacuation' Celebration

LD1206212895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1925 GMT on 12 June carries a 50-minute recording of a "celebration of the 25th anniversary of the evacuation of U.S. bases from the soil of the homeland" at the Mu'aytiqah air base. The date of the celebration is not given.

Various fighter aircraft and helicopters are shown flying past and landing.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrives and sits on a covered dais with what appear to be Arab and other

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foreign diplomats. Officials, described as representatives of the popular leadership, make speeches praising al-Qadhdhafi and declaring support.

Various Basic People's Congresses and Libyan airlines present pledges of allegiance and loyalty, bouquets of flowers, a shield, and a picture to al—Qadhdhafi. He then decorates the crews of the Libyan planes that took Libyan pilgrims to Jeddah and awards a medal to the leader of the Libyan pilgrimage delegation.

A fighter plane piloted by a Libyan woman pilot is shown landing and al—Qadhdhafi decorates several women pilots with the military star medal.

Foreign diplomats are then shown greeting and congratulating al-Qadhdhafi on this occasion.

Opposition Group Urges 'New Formula' on Sanctions

MM0606102395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Salvation Front Urges Security Council To Introduce New Sanctions Formula"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] has urged the Security Council to find a new formula for tackling the question of the sanctions imposed against Libya. It also said that the time has come for all Libyan opposition forces to operate with greater coordination and cooperation.

In a statement issued after a regular meeting by its Executive Committee, the NFSL said that it had reviewed the results of the fourth session of the National Congress, reorganized the Executive Committee and laid new foundations for its work with the members sharing its various tasks, and approved the political, informational, military, and organizational plans of action for the coming period.

It said that "the Executive Committee reaffirms what the NFSL has repeatedly said, namely that the Libyan people are the main party harmed by the international sanctions particularly as (Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar) al—Qadhdhafi has used the sanctions as an additional means of further exhausting and shackling the Libyan people and further exhausting Libya's resources and capabilities.... Any measures or sanctions must target the regime itself. That is why the Executive Committee appeals to the Security Council to find a new formula for tackling the crisis."

The Executive Committee expressed "the conviction that the time has come for the Libyan opposition forces to declare unanimous support for the aims of the Libyan national struggle, which are: overthrowing al-Qadhdhafi's regime, restoring constitutional legitimacy in the country, and establishing a constitutional, patriotic, and democratic regime which derives its authority from the Libyan nation. They should work together with the maximum possible coordination and cooperation to reactivate the collective role of the Libyan opposition and enhance its ability to fulfill these objectives. In this connection, the Executive Committee reaffirms the NFSL's position welcoming and supporting every sincere effort in that direction. The Executive Committee gave special attention to the NFSL's activity in the context of relations between the Libyan opposition forces, and it passed a number of resolutions which will be implemented in the coming period."

Morocco

Opposition Leader Returns From Exile in France

LD1106094495 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mohamed Basri, one of the historic leaders of the Independent Sherifian Kingdom, returned to Morocco late yesterday afternoon. Mohamed Basri, who had gone from resistance to opposition, returns to Morocco after 28 years of exile in France.

The plane carrying him landed in Casablanca at the Mohamed V Airport, named after the monarch whom in his time he had helped to the throne. No Moroccan official came to greet him. The national radio and television even ignored Basri's return. But on the spot for RFI was Mouna El Banna, our correspondent. Here is her report:

[El Banna] They were all there to welcome him: the old generation, the young generation, and above all Abderrahman Yousufi, his old comrade. His arrival at Casablanca airport took place amidst great confusion. The [word indistinct] was tense; so were the militants. After 28 years of exile, Mohamed Basri, also known as Fqih Basri, Basri the Learned, was visibly moved. [passage omitted]

Phosphate, Health Workers To Strike 20 Jun

LD1306140895 Rabat MAP in English 1259 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jun. 13 (MAP) — The National Council of the Union of Phosphate Workers, affiliate to the Labor Democratic Confederation (CDT/ close to the Socialist Union of Popular Forces/USFP/ opposition) decided to stage a 72-hour strike as of June 20. The decision, made at a meeting held last weekend, is due to the failure to address the workers' claims and to

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the lack of dialogue with the administration concerned, the council said in a communique. The phosphate workers claim increase of wages, improvement of social situation and respect of unionist rights.

For its part, the executive bureau of the Moroccan National Federation of Health, affiliate to the General Union of Morocco's Workers (UGTM/close to the Istiqlal Party-PI/opposition) decided to stage a 24-hour general strike on June 15.

In another development, jobless holders of phd. degrees in science are observing as of Monday [12 June] a hunger strike at the headquarters of the Moroccan Union of Higher Education. [Words indistinct] strike comes after a series of protests by the jobless phd. holders in many Moroccan cities to denounce the indifference of the officials vis-a-vis their situation, 'LIBERATION' daily of the USFP said.

***Background Provided on UMT Labor Union**

95AF0090A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 10 May 95 pp 14-15

[Article by Bahia Amrani: "Trip Inside the UMT"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *As it holds its congress, the central union established 40 years ago reminds people that it still has to be reckoned with.*

Representatives of embassies, 10 or so international organizations, 20 or so foreign labor unions, and foreign and national guests of honor listened to such statements as "Struggle! Struggle! Our union is our weapon!" "United and together, we will get what we want!" and "Today or tomorrow, we will succeed no matter what!" The Moroccan Labor Federation (UMT) was holding its congress in a highly charged atmosphere. Hundreds of members punctuated the speech by Mahjoub Ben Seddik with slogans. When the secretary general brought up the economic situation, the members chanted: "Enough robbery, the people are in danger!" When he talked about unemployment, they rapped out: "There are the diplomas, but where are the jobs?" His diagnosis was final: "Neither confidence nor hope in the government and Parliament."

Rank-and-file critics did not spare foreign guests. A U.S. diplomat had to listen patiently while the audience, standing and waving its fists, shouted that there were too many wars because the United States is the enemy of the peoples. The Kuwaitis did not flinch when a wild crowd denounced the embargo on Iraq. For three days (21-23 April), some 1,000 delegates expressed themselves freely.

Despite their virulence, however, it was not those speeches that attracted the most attention. In fact, all eyes had been on the UMT even before the congress opened, and the report by the secretary general was eagerly awaited even by those who nourish old resentments toward the union and its leader and usually ignore its activities.

The reason was that this ninth congress was being held in a different context. A few weeks earlier, several events had propelled the UMT to the front of the political stage. Marginalized during the talks between the government and the opposition regarding participation in the government, Mahjoub Ben Seddik's union suddenly found itself the focus of questions regarding the revival of alternation in power.

The speculation began with Mahjoub Ben Seddik's spectacular meeting with the leaders of the two main competing unions: Noubir Amaoui of the CDT [Democratic Labor Confederation]—close to the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces]—and Abderrazak Afilal of the UGTM [General Union of Moroccan Workers] (Istiqlal Party). That was a major event for anyone familiar with the history of the three central unions and their tumultuous relations.

Fierce Rivalry

Established by Mahjoub Ben Seddik and other leaders of the national movement on 20 March 1955, the UMT was the only union until 1960. In that year, the Istiqlal Party formed another union called the UGTM. Two years earlier, Istiqlal had gone through a split with its left wing. With Mahjoub Ben Seddik's support, Abdallah Ibrahim, Mehdi Ben Barka, Islamic jurist Basri, and Abderrahim Bouabid had announced the establishment of the UNFP [National Union of Popular Forces] in the very building occupied by the UMT. In 1978, the scenario repeated itself almost exactly. Born of the split within the UNFP two years before, the USFP, which criticized the UMT for being apolitical, waited another four years before encouraging the establishment of a third union: the CDT.

The three unions then developed a fierce rivalry, with the UMT often being the target of the harshest diatribes. The decision by the UGTM and CDT in 1990 to coordinate their strategies naturally widened the gap between them and the UMT. All the more since Mahjoub Ben Seddik had always opposed any united action with the other central unions. As far as he was concerned, cooperating with them would have meant accepting union plurality.

One can therefore understand the interest aroused by the meeting of the three union leaders, especially in the current context, which is marked by economic and social unrest, the return of Abderrahmane Youssoufi, and

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the expected return of jurist Basra (whose rejection of union divisions and whose friendship with Mahjoub Ben Seddik are known to everyone). The explanations by the UMT's secretary general were therefore very useful. Especially since tension between the UMT and the government also seems to be on the rise. In recent weeks, the central union has stepped up its strike movements, thus provoking arrests and court convictions for its rank and file. Over the years, Mahjoub Ben Seddik's organization has established an equilibrium in its relations with the government that has regularly caused it to be accused of laxity and even of compromise. Mohamed Abderrazak is the man behind that equilibrium.

Trained by the French CGT [General Confederation of Labor], Abderrazak is known above all for his management of charitable programs. After being elected in March, his election as deputy was invalidated in the (indirect) legislative elections of September 1993 on the basis of an appeal filed by the CDT and the UGTM. It was a hard blow, although UMT officials do not blame the government. Will Abderrazak continue to act as "regulator"? The question was not discussed at the congress. On the other hand, Mahjoub Ben Seddik mentioned his meeting with the other union leaders and, shrewd politician that he is, spoke in such a way as to leave all possibilities open. Taking care not to offend his rank and file, who are a long way from supporting rapprochement, he advised "not being mistaken as to who the opponent is": "Our opponents are those to whom our demands are addressed."

'Falsified Democracy'

The congress slogan being a call to action to "accept the challenge of democratic change," Mahjoub stigmatized "falsified democracy" and advocated the conclusion of a social pact: "There will be no democracy or alternation in power without a social pact, and there will be no social pact without union unity." In Mahjoub's mind, union unity means the rallying of the other organizations to the UMT and their independence from political parties.

At 72 years of age, Mahjoub remains true to himself. A self-taught man, he was a railroad stationmaster not far from his hometown of Meknes. He very quickly became active in the CGT and then devoted his life to the union movement.

But his fight for independence and his activities in political parties were to mold his perception of unionism. As a result, Mahjoub Ben Seddik has always felt that the UMT is destined to exercise government power.

He has therefore tirelessly opposed the UMT's membership in any party. Slight in build but with a very strong character, he has achieved a real feat: after 40 years of a tumultuous and controversial career, he is still at the head of the UMT. But, while his supporters defend him by saying that "nothing big grows in the shade of a big tree," his opponents criticize him for failing to make preparations for a successor. Taieb Bouazza, who might have set his sights on the leadership, left the union movement for a post as ambassador in 1958. Later, another man—Abdelkader Aouab—might have seemed a possible successor. He died of cancer. Today, Mahjoub Ben Seddik is the only man in charge, and the question of his successor is mentioned only by foreign delegations concerned about their future relations with the organization. And the UMT, with its 500,000 members, is an indisputable force able to paralyze entire segments of the economy, such as banking and the ports.

Difficult Consensus With Parties

Reviving his old dream of a united front of the left, Mahjoub invited the opposition parties to form a consensus. But, if union unity is difficult to achieve, consensus with the parties is equally so. The secretary general of the UMT broke with Istiqlal in 1959. He was also violently opposed to the founders of the USFP (Abderrahim Bouabid, in particular) even before that party came into existence. Relations with the leader of the UNFP have remained good, but they cooled slightly when Abdallah Ibrahim formed the Koutla with the other opposition parties. Abdallah Ibrahim did not attend the congress because Mahjoub, who has usually looked him up before opening a congress, did not do so this year. Last, the break with the PPS [Party of Progress and Socialism] took place four years ago, when a newspaper owned by Ali Yata's party published an article critical of Mahjoub. The UMT's members, who saw that as a violation of the alliance, burned the PPS newspapers in public. Relations have improved somewhat since then, and members of the PPS Political Bureau have seats on some of the union's organizations, but each side remains aloof.

As can be seen, consensus will require a heavy dose of forgetfulness and willingness.

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Kuwait

'Pressure' on Iraq Sought To Solve POW Issue

LD1306192695 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the National Committee for the Affairs of POW's and the Missing, refuted claims today by the Iraqi regime that the State of Kuwait is hindering a meeting on Kuwaiti POW's due to be held in the border region. He said the Iraqi regime requested that the meeting be delayed one week.

Before leaving Kuwait for Strasbourg to meet officials of the European Parliament, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah told KUNA that Kuwait made the necessary arrangements for that meeting, with the participation of the alliance states.

The chairman of the National Committee for the Affairs of POW's and the Missing denied rumors spread by Baghdad that Iraq handed over the files of 209 POW's to the Arab League. He stressed that Kuwait has not been notified of that by the Arab League.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah stressed that the Iraqi regime is still required to furnish convincing answers on these files, as they are a part of 625 files of POW's who are still held in Iraq.

He said the purpose of his visit to the European Parliament is to get support for efforts and pressure on Iraq to settle the POW issue.

Official Denies Iraqi Families Entering From Iran

LD1006203795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1906 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 10 Jun (KUNA) — The Interior Ministry today denied the entry of an estimated 300 families of Iraqi refugees into Kuwait from Iran by sea.

Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil al-Ibrahim, head of public relations at the ministry, said that "Kuwait refuses categorically to receive anyone from whatever country illegally, and it thus totally rejects any act which contravenes international laws and norms." He added that Kuwait "has always been and is still strongly opposed to anything which contravenes international laws and norms, and it does its best to prevent illegal operations, and arrests all those who attempt to infiltrate the country." [passage omitted]

Al-Ibrahim said: "The Interior Ministry in Kuwait will never neglect the protection of its borders; this is a sacred national duty which we cannot fail to carry out." He added: "The security forces in Kuwait work day and night, and with a high spirit and a deep awareness of the national responsibility to protect the country and establish security and safety throughout Kuwait."

Assembly Votes Against Election Law Amendments

LD1306190495 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly was convened in an ordinary session this morning under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun.

The assembly decided not to approve two draft laws submitted by some members on amending the first clause of Law No. 35 of 1962 concerning the election of members of the National Assembly, and amending Clause 6 of the Amiri Edict No. 15 of 1995 concerning the Kuwaiti citizenship law.

The National Assembly suspended the application of Law No. 40 of 1987 on amendment to some of the provisions of Law No. 15 of 1995 concerning Kuwaiti citizenship which was promulgated during the dissolution of the National Assembly, as the required majority for or against it was not attained.

The National Assembly endorsed a draft law submitted by some members concerning the participation of the private sector in using state-owned land for housing purposes, and it was referred to the government.

The National Assembly will reconvene on 17 June.

Report on Council of Minister's Weekly Session

LD1106190295 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its weekly session this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister. After the meeting, Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister, finance minister, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and acting planning minister, said that at the outset of the meeting the council welcomed the visit that the president of the republic of Malawi was going to pay to Kuwait from 16-19 June. This visit reflects the excellent relations existing between the two friendly countries, the minister added. [passage omitted]

In implementation of the provisions of Law 15-92 concerning the muncipality of Kuwait City and and the subsequent amendments, the council approved a draft decree on the appointment of the following six members

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to the municipal council: 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim al-Huti, Fahd 'Ali al-Jabri, Husam 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Rumi, Muhammad Hayfa al-Hajra, Rashid 'Abdallah al-'Uthman and Fahd 'Abdallah al-Khuzam. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the council approved a number of draft laws setting the budget of some government departments for the 1995-96 financial year and decided to submit them to his highness the amir before they are submitted to the National Assembly. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Government Mediating Release of Americans in Iraq

NC1406102295 Paris AFP in English 0944 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, June 14 (AFP) — Qatar is mediating for the release of two Americans jailed in Iraq for illegally entering the country, an Arab diplomat said here Wednesday [14 June].

Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf visited Doha in May to discuss the case of David Daliberti and William Barloon who were sentenced on March 25 to eight years in prison, according to the diplomat, who requested anonymity.

Al-Sahhaf handed Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar's crown prince and defense minister, a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, but the contents were not disclosed.

The diplomat said Iraq had a "favorable attitude" toward Qatar's mediation, but declined to give details on the mediation which "is continuing."

The state-run AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper reported on June 7 that a court had rejected an appeal from Daliberti and Barloon, who said they were arrested when they got lost along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border on March 13.

But the two made one last appeal to the court of cassation, which has less scope than an appeals court. If that fails, they will have to ask Saddam Husayn for a presidential pardon.

The two men, who were working for US defense contractors in Kuwait, are being held in Abu Gharib prison outside Baghdad.

Qatar is one of the few Gulf Arab states to have relations at ambassador level with Iraq. Doha renewed ties with Baghdad about a year after it took part in a US-led coalition to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991.

Saudi Arabia

Joint Border Committee With Yemen Meets in Jeddah

LD1306210095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saudi-Yemeni joint committee meetings began this evening in Jeddah. The committee was set up in accordance with Article 3 of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen on 26 February, with the aim of completing the demarcation of borders between the two countries. The Saudi side was headed by Mr. Ibrahim al-Anqari, special adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques, and composed of Education Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir; and Dr. Mitlib al-Nafisah, chairman of the Council of Ministers commission of experts. The Yemeni side was headed by 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development; and includes Mr. Ismail al-Wazir, legal adviser to the president of the republic. The meeting was also attended on the Saudi side by Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri, undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs; and on the Yemeni side by Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, Yemeni ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The committee will resume its meetings tomorrow, God willing.

Press on Christopher Mideast Trip, Yemeni Ties

LD1306141995 Riyadh SPA in English 1229 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, June 13, SPA — [passage omitted] Referring to the current tour of U.S. Secretary Warren Christopher to the Middle East region, AL-RIYAD newspaper said with every visit of the U.S. secretary of state to the region, there are talks and reports of optimism about peace, but they get deadlocked because Tel Aviv on every new occasion, rejects requests and proposals and builds up new obstacles on the path of Middle East peace. This, in turn, transforms Christopher's sincere initiatives into failure.

'One good development that was noticeable during the last visit of Christopher was that both Washington and Israel are now convinced that without Syria, peace will not be possible in the region. There is, no doubt, that the road to peace passes through Damascus,' the paper said. [passage omitted]

Commenting on Saudi-Yemeni relations, the Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said these relations, in future, by the grace of Allah, would become a model drawing attention.

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'These relations will play a vital role in spheres of security, peace and stability in the Arab Peninsula in particular as well as help in boosting the peace process in the Middle East region,' the paper said. [passage omitted]

Oil Output Reportedly Poised for Sharp Increase

NC1406112495 Paris AFP in English 0850 GMT 14 Jun 95

[By Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, June 14 (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is pressing ahead with energy projects that will sharply boost its oil production capacity and allow it to fill any world supply gap caused by a steady increase in demand.

The Gulf kingdom, already the world's top oil producer and exporter, has approved plans to develop a giant border field which could add more than 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) to its capacity, industry sources said.

Two other projects involve capacity expansion at the southern Haradh producing area to raise output there to nearly 375,000 bpd.

In other oil-rich regions, Saudi Arabia has intensified drilling activity under a programme approved by the state oil company Aramco. More than 760 exploratory and development wells have been commissioned between 1990 and 1994, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the total wells drilled in the Arab world.

The giant Shaybah field, which straddles the Saudi border with the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, has an estimated reserve of more than seven billion barrels, making it one of the biggest onshore oilfields in the world.

According to the Nicosia-based MIDDLE EAST ECONOMY SURVEY (MEES), Aramco has approved around 2.5 billion dollars for the development of Shaybah to generate nearly 500,000 bpd. It said it would be the biggest upstream oil project to be carried out by Saudi Arabia in four years.

MEES said the 40-kilometre (25-mile) field would come on stream by the end of the decade and would produce very light and low sulphur crude oil.

Oil sources said the Shaybah project would push Saudi Arabia's crude production capacity to around 12 million bpd in the year 2000 — nearly 17 percent of the world's total oil supplies.

Saudi Arabia had an output capacity of around 9.3 million bpd in 1990 but it was raised to 9.6 million bpd in 1993 and around 10 million bpd in 1995, according to official figures.

The development projects would bring the kingdom's sustainable capacity back to the peak level recorded during the oil boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Saudi Arabia earned more than 100 billion dollars a year during the oil boom, when crude prices were as high as 30 dollars.

The decline in prices depressed its revenues to a record low of 24 billion dollars in 1989 when prices dipped to around 10 dollars due to a price war among producers.

Saudi Arabia produced nearly 5.06 million bpd in 1989 under a quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It later hiked production to eight million bpd to make up for the disruption of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude exports during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

Around 1.7 million bpd of Saudi Arabia's oil production is exported to the United States while more than two million bpd goes to Europe and 1.2 million bpd to Japan.

The rest is supplied mainly to South Korea, India, Singapore, Taiwan and other Asian and African countries.

"Saudi Arabia is banking on a steady rise in oil demand in the West and Asia at a time when supply sources from many other countries are steadily declining," a Saudi-based oil executive told AFP. "The development projects also mean that the kingdom will remain the dominant oil power."

World demand is forecast to surge from 56 million bpd in 1990 to 92 million bpd in 2020 if there is high economic growth, according to the World Energy Council.

Saudi Arabia, which controls more than a quarter of the world's crude reserves, has not published official figures on the cost of its oil development projects, but independent estimates put total investments until the year 2000 at around 25 billion dollars.

Yemen

Government Decrees Appoint New Ministers, Advisers

Four New Ministers Named

JN1306210695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jun 95

["Text" of Republican Decree No. 68 issued on 13 June — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, after taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and Presidential Decree No. 1

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of 1994 on forming the cabinet, and pursuant to the recommendations of the prime minister, and in accordance with the public interest, has decided:

Article 1: The following brothers shall be appointed to the posts opposite their names:

— Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of industry, oil, and mineral resources;
—'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', minister of information;
—Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, minister of interior;
—Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Ifandi, minister of supply and trade.

Article 2: This decree shall go into effect on the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 14 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 13 June 1995.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic

'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister

Adviser to Prime Minister Appointed

JN1306213495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jun 95

["Text" of Republican Decree No. 69 issued on 13 June — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the republic, after taking cognizance of the Constitution and Republican Decree No. 1 of 1994 on the formation of the government and upon the recommendation of the prime minister, has decided:

Article 1: Brother Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab Jubari shall be appointed adviser to the prime minister with the same rank.

Article 2: This decree shall go into effect on the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 14 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 13 June 1995.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic

'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister

Advisers to President Decreed

JN1306212095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jun 95

["Text" of Presidential Decree No. 21 issued on 13 June — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the republic, after taking cognizance of the Constitution, and in accordance with the public interest, has decided the following:

Article 1: Those whose names are listed herewith shall be appointed advisers to the president of the republic: Brigadier Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil and Muhammad Salim Ba-Sindwah.

Article 2: This decree shall go into effect on the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 14 Muharram, 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 13 June 1995.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic

Reshuffle Affects Coalition Balance

LD1306212495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2018 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 13 Jun (KUNA) — It was announced here today that there has been a ministerial reshuffle affecting four ministries. The posts went from members of the governing party to members of the Islah Party [Yemeni Reform Grouping], which is a partner in power.

Sanaa television said Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih appointed four new ministers under this reshuffle: trade, information, interior, and oil.

With this limited reshuffle the ruling General People's Congress [GPC] has obtained most of the ministerial portfolios in 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani's government, which was formed in October 1994, thus distancing the Islah Party which lost its position in the government despite its coalition with the GPC.

Under this first reshuffle of this government, the Ministry of Information goes to 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', brother-in-law of the president and the head of the ruling GPC. Akwa takes over from Muhammad Salim Ba-Sindwah, who held the post of foreign minister in the previous government.

The Oil Ministry goes to Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and industry minister, replacing Faysal 'Uthman Bin-Shamlan; the Interior Ministry

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goes to Husayn Muhammad Arab instead of Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil; and the Trade Ministry to Muhammad Ahmad Ifandi instead of Muhammad Jubari.

The Yemeni president issued a republican edict appointing the former ministers of information and interior, Muhammad Ba-Sindwah and Yahya al-Mutawakkil, as presidential advisers, and appointed former Trade Minister Muhammad Jubari as an adviser to the prime minister.

Prime Minister on Economic 'Crisis,' Interparty Ties

MM1406132895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Sanaa "yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khayrallah] Yemenis talk about nothing these days except the economic crisis. How would you explain the situation the country is experiencing?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Actually the crisis is the outcome of the accumulation of many things, especially as we were bound to the oil-producing Arabs. There are oil-producing Arabs and oil-consuming Arabs. We belong to the latter. The Gulf war played a major role in our crisis, as we used to rely on expatriates' remittances to obtain hard currency. And although oil was discovered and began to be utilized in Yemen in 1990, it provided little income and could not compensate for the huge sums represented in the remittances. Then came the sharing period (sharing power between the General People's Congress and the Socialist Party). Of course, this period had a great effect, because it burdened the unified state with the legacies of the two former states — which means that instead of having one employee, there were two, three, or even four employees. It was natural for the new state to deal with all previous commitments. We do not have the resources available to a Germany in order for us to embark on measures like the ones on which it has embarked.

[Khayrallah] That was about the past. But the complaint is about the present....

['Abd-al-Ghani] It is difficult for us to ignore the accumulations of the past and move to effective practices overnight. The reform program is implemented in stages, because we cannot take all economic measures at once. For example, we cannot say that all oil byproducts must be sold at market prices. We could not also lift the subsidy on the prices of wheat, flour, electricity, and water at once. We started our economic steps, which are accompanied by rationing of government spending, on the basis that the economic program be implemented in stages until the budget deficit is covered. Once this deficit is covered, the situation will stabilize and there will be no borrowing, and hence the stability of the national currency's value can be maintained.

[Khayrallah] That is good in theory. But people are also complaining that the trends that prevailed in the days of the coalition with the Socialist party have returned, but this time with the Reform Grouping. Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, oil minister in the days of the Socialist Party, used to seclude himself, and the new oil minister is doing the same now, when he is in charge of the most important sector vis-a-vis securing hard currency. This is the real complaint against the government, even though there is acknowledgment that there is some improvement in the situation in general.

['Abd-al-Ghani] First of all, the relationship between the Congress and the Socialist Party was different. The Socialist Party embarked on a major action by joining the unity process. But after unity, matters began to take another course, because the Socialist Party deviated from the constants on which the unity was established. There is no dispute in the country at present. And relations are good between the Congress and the Reform Grouping, since there is no disagreement over the constants. We are two allied parties, and it is natural for either to have its own opinion of some matters, just like any two brothers. But we are not in disagreement over the aim or the course.

As for the brother oil minister, he has not secluded himself. He has taken a long leave. However, work at the Oil Ministry has not been affected. Because the deputy minister has the same powers when the minister is absent. This is the system we have here. So matters are proceeding normally in the oil sphere. The deputy minister is doing the minister's work. For example, the gas project to be carried out is a big one.... The process is proceeding normally, and, God willing, the oil minister will return to resume his work.

[Khayrallah] When do you expect that to happen?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Within days or weeks.... He will not be absent for long....

[Khayrallah] What about the General People's Congress conference. Has a date been set for it?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Actually it will be held at the end of the month or at the beginning of next month. We set numerous dates but did not meet them because the documents were incomplete. We finally decided to set a date for the conference when we believe that the documents are complete.

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'Positive Indications' of Detente With Kuwait Seen

MM1306154995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jun 95 p 4

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Yemeni Sources Expect Relaxation in Relations With Kuwait"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Yemeni sources yesterday expected an imminent relaxation in relations between Kuwait and Sanaa, pointing to contacts being made between the two countries, but through unofficial channels. The sources spoke of positive indications encouraging the belief that Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations could return to normal in the near future.

The sources said that Sanaa recently submitted an official request to the Kuwaiti Government, seeking its approval of Mustafa Nu'man's appointment as charge d'affaires at the Yemeni Embassy, and that it is still awaiting an official reply from Kuwait.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stressed at the news conference held in Jeddah last week that there was no problem in relations between Yemen and Kuwait. He also stressed Yemen's willingness to hold meetings between Yemeni and Kuwaiti officials at any level, pointing out that the ball was now in the Kuwaiti court.

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Conflicts in Ruling Family Reach 'Dangerous Point'

LD1306165395 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation in Arabic 1447 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation correspondent reports from Baghdad that the differences and conflicts between the members of the ruling family have reached a dangerous point, particularly after tyrant Saddam Husayn dismissed his half-brother Watban al-Takriti from his post as minister of interior and Uday Saddam Husayn divorced his wife, the daughter of Barzan al-Takriti.

The correspondent added that the role of Watban, Barzan, and Sab'awi, the dictator's half-brothers and the sons of Ibrahim al-Hasan, is being marginalized day by day after the latest dismissal from their posts.

The correspondent emphasized: Within the framework of an escalation in the conflicts between the members of the ruling family, the Majid family is selling the assets of Barzan al-Takriti, including property, companies, buildings, vehicles, and horses, and putting a lot of them up for auction with the aim of liquidation. In addition, Barzan al-Takriti, who is in charge of the dictator's assets and his secret deals abroad, has summoned his sons to Geneva.

It is worth recalling that these differences come after the escalation of the struggle within the ruling family and the attempt by Uday and Qusay to inherit their father's power and play a bigger role in political positions. The Majid family is helping them in this orientation against the Husayn family.

Brother of Executed General Flees; New Clashes

LD1406102895 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation [IBC] correspondent in al-Ramadi has reported that Ahmad Mazlum Albu-'Alwani al-Dulaymi, an aircraft engineer officer, left Iraq for Jordan with two other Iraqi air force officers via the desert road, and went to the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Amman and from there to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This was after his brother Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, commander of al-Hurriyyah air base, was executed on the last day of 'Id al-Adha [14 May].

The correspondent adds that Ahmad Mazlum is currently in the Saudi city of Jeddah, and that he will be leaving for the Syrian Arab Republic in the next 10 days.

It is worth noting that the incidents witnessed in al-Ramadi after the execution of Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Mazlum resumed after the noon prayers on 9 June, leading to violent clashes between the people and the Special Guard Forces under the command of Qusayy Saddam Husayn. The clashes led to the martyrdom and wounding of many of the people.

Regime Actions To Quash al-Anbar 'Uprising' Detailed

MM1306154095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jun 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Anbar Incidents Turned Into Large-Scale Uprising; Iraqi Authorities Used Artillery And Aircraft To Suppress It"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Ankara, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Several sources familiar with the situation in Iraq have confirmed that what happened in al-Anbar was a real uprising, and that Iraqi authorities suppressed it using heavy weapons, artillery, and rockets. The authorities have also begun a plan to calm the situation and tackle the effects of what has happened.

Conditions developed into that bloody and explosive situation following the incidents which al-Ramadi, capital of al-Anbar Governorate, experienced in the wake of the al-Dulaym tribes' attack on the offices of the ruling Ba'th Party and government departments in the city to protest the execution of a large number of officers belonging to these tribes, first and foremost Major General Pilot Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, and the harsh way the government dealt with these incidents, as it resorted to intensive rocket and artillery bombardment.

The authorities in al-Anbar are working to eliminate the effects of the devastation and destruction, which are still clear in the city, mostly through a large-scale campaign to clean the streets and remove the rubble in al-Ramadi. [passage omitted]

A statement has been distributed in London actually talking of an uprising in al-Anbar. It says that on the eve of the Muslim celebration of the blessed 'Id al-Adha the Iraqi authorities committed a new ugly crime, the victim of which this time is al-Anbar/al-Ramadi Governorate — the governorate whose sons are known for their jihad and nationalist stands and their fight against colonialism, injustice, and corruption throughout history. So they sent their tanks, armored vehicles, and aircraft to turn the city and its suburbs into a sea of blood and a ghost town, whose people fled to the bushes and valleys. What happened in al-Anbar poses a threat to the authority, because its borders overlap with Baghdad's.

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The statement brings to mind the uprising in southern Iraq. Those signing the statement expressed their respect for al-Anbar's martyrs, urging Arabs and Muslims who care about the Iraqi people to adopt an honorable position — a position prompted by fraternity, destiny, language, and faith.

They also called on all good international forces and human rights organizations to "break the silence about this crime and to work earnestly to support our struggling Iraqi people."

The statement bears the following signatures: Shaykh Muhammad al-Alusi, Sa'd Salih Jabr, Dr. Usamah al-Tikriti, Fa'iq al-Shaykh 'Ali, Muhammad al-Badri, Dr. Husayn al-Juburi, Dr. Sa'dun al-Dulaymi, Dr. Hashim Shabib, Fu'ad al-'Ani, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Ruhaymi; Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Amir 'Ubays, Fulayh al-Samarra'i, 'Abd- al-Salam al-Mayyahi, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fattah, Hazim al-Samarra'i, and Jawhar al-Sawraji.

Al-Ramadi Residents Cable Allegiance to Saddam

JN1306202695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the residents of al-Ramadi. In the cable, they renewed their absolute rallying behind the banner of God is Great upheld by leader President Saddam Husayn in defense of great Iraq.

The following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.

To mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, architect of the nation's renaissance, may God protect him;

Your Excellency the president: We are the residents of the city of al-Ramadi, which has identified with the leader and is impregnable to enemies, God willing. We would like to declare to your excellency that we will continue to honor the pledge and the pact, and that we will continue to vindicate your course, which we have espoused. We will not be dissuaded by those who have gone astray, nor shall we be deterred by malicious and rancorous people or traitors who have sold their consciences to the devil.

Your excellency the president: Lead us with your head held high and with your flag fluttering. We, along with you, will use God's swords against outlaws, renegades, and vindictive people who entertain the notion of opposing the renaissance and pride plan being spearheaded by your excellency.

Sir, may God grant you success and victory. It is God who grants success and guides our steps.

[Signed] The al-Ramadi residents

Daily Criticizes Gulf Cooperation Council Statement

JN1306104595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Jun (INA) — AL-JUMHURIYAH daily has said that those who are captive to their grudges are no more than tools manipulated by regional and international parties that seek to promote their own interests.

In an editorial by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar, the paper says the final statement issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council in its recent meeting in Riyadh contains amazing ironies and stands that are not based on sound calculations.

The paper adds: While the conferees blessed reconciliation efforts with the Zionist entity without any conditions, they dealt with the Iraqi people in an entirely different way. The conferees ignored the fact that the Zionist entity is still occupying Arab land and has caused the death of millions of Arabs.

The paper points out that the signatories to the statement yesterday adopted illogical stands. They see Iraq as a country full of ogres while the Zionist entity is full of nice and peaceful butterflies, when in fact it is a racist and expansionist entity that has absolutely refused to implement all the Security Council resolutions against it on account of its anti-Arab policies.

The paper adds that anyone who reads the Gulf statement can see that those who drafted it fall into two categories. The first group does not know exactly the substance of the Security Council resolutions on Iraq, especially Resolution 687. The other group bears a strong grudge toward Iraq, denies that Iraq has implemented the Security Council resolutions, and seeks to maintain the blockade.

The paper refers to the working mechanisms of Resolution 687, which show that lifting the Iraq blockade depends on the implementation of Paragraph C of this resolution and has no link to the other resolutions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: We are aware that some Gulf leaders and officials have had recourse to reason and logic and expressed positive attitudes. The Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, are good examples. In addition, the Arab people in the Gulf are aware of the dangers of the policies adopted by the al-Sabah and al-Sa'ud families to hurt the Iraqi people. The Gulf people think the time has come for the brave and wise men in the Gulf Cooperation Council to clear this

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dangerous mine planted in the path of serious action to have the Iraq blockade lifted.

The paper asserts that Iraq does not hold a grudge toward anybody, even some of those who harmed it. Iraq has iterated this several times. Some people, however, have surrendered to their grudges. The paper advises those people to quit this policy, pay attention to the real interests of the nation, and not depend on the promises of the United States, which is famous for deserting its closest friends when its interests dictate this.

Regime Sends Reinforcements to al-Ta'mim Province

NC1206153195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling regime in Iraq has reinforced its military units in al-Ta'mim Governorate, deploying the new forces near oil installations in the governorate.

Eyewitnesses say the reinforcements consist of armored units and artillery batteries, and that control has been tightened at inspection points on the approaches to Karkuk city.

The reason for Saddam Husayn regime's military reinforcements early this week is not yet known.

PUK Fighters Reportedly Repulse Government Attack

NC1206155995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroic Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga at 1000 today, Monday, confronted a force from the ruling fascist regime in Baghdad. The attacking force was made up of about 500 soldiers, drawn from several 5th Corps regiments, and was supported by five tanks and three personnel carriers.

The force attempted to advance to the villages of 'Uwaynah and Shaykh Shirwan in Irbil Governorate.

In a heroic and fierce battle, the PUK peshmerga repulsed and chased the attacking force after inflicting heavy losses on it and after capturing the following equipment: one military jeep, one 12 mm DSHK gun, one communications set, and 40 mortar shells.

PUK Repulses KDP Attack on Al-Sulaymaniyah Area

NC1306165895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1530 yesterday a group of approximately 100 gunmen belonging to the [Kurdistan Democratic] Party [KDP] assaulted Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga posts on the (Karadur) axis in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The PUK heroes in the Walasin area repulsed the KDP attackers, inflicting heavy losses on them. [passage omitted]

Deputy Envoy Addresses UN Committee on Sanctions

JN1406110395 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, June 14, INA — Iraq has said that Article 41 of the UN charter should not be employed and submitted to the Security Council for imposing economic sanctions.

Iraq's deputy permanent delegate to the UN Sa'id Hasan al-Musawi confirmed, during a meeting of the sub-committee of the UN General Assembly specialized in considering the proposals required to strengthen the attitude included in the UN chief plan last year, the significance of respect states sovereignty in all circumstances and times.

It is to be recalled that UN Chief Dr. Butrus-Ghali has observed that the use of the economic sanctions stir up ethical and legal problems to the UN.

The Iraqi diplomat supported the proposals calling for not imposing sanctions by the Security Council before conducting studies and deliberations with the states concerned on the expected effects on the civil population and the neighbouring nations, and should only resort to the sanctions after the failure of all peaceful means to iron out the crisis in accordance with the UN charter Sixth Chapter.

He stressed the necessity of setting provisions allowing the parties concerned to resort to the legitimate legal means, including the International Court of Justice to handle legitimacy of the sanctions.

The Iraqi diplomat pointed out that the Security Council resolutions to impose economic sanctions necessitate a clear-cut and an accurate authorization of tasks of the boycott committees in a manner differs to what is happening with Iraq case.

The work of the boycott committees require amendment so as to stave off the de facto represented in the veto

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used by some Security Council permanent members for sheer political purposes.

The Iraqi diplomat called for paving the way for representatives of the states on which the sanctions are to be imposed to take part in activities of the boycott committees.

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Rabin Meets Chirac, Comments on Syrian Issue

TA1306160195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris today. Upon leaving the meeting he told correspondents that there are four moot points in the negotiations between Syria and Israel. Therefore, according to Rabin, reference is to an important step forward but not to a breakthrough toward a peace treaty yet. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports from Paris:

[Begin recording] [Kouts] Jacques Chirac was very cordial toward his lunch guest today. He greeted Rabin at the palace gate and later escorted him to his car. Yitzhaq Rabin noted Chirac's sympathy toward Israel and the desire for closer cooperation. In this meeting too, the desire was expressed to sign the new agreement between Israel and the EC by the end of the month. Chirac promised to continue efforts on behalf of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] POW's and Ron Arad. Rabin reviewed the peace process, and upon leaving the meeting he refused to react to President Weizman's comments on a withdrawal to the international border with Syria. Instead, he emphasized the remaining disagreements:

[Rabin] Where will the peace border be? We agreed to a withdrawal in principle, but how long will the withdrawal to this border take? Third, how long will we try to prove that normalization exists on the basis of a very limited withdrawal on the Golan? Fourth, the security arrangements — in two weeks, on 27 June, the chiefs of staff of the two armies will sit down together and discuss them.

[Kouts] Rabin is currently conferring with Foreign Minister Herve De Charette and will return to Israel tonight. [end recording]

Denies Secret Talks With Syria

TA1406052695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin early this morning returned from a two day visit in France. Prior to leaving Paris, Rabin said no secret talks between Israel and Syria are being held in Europe. Four issues remain unresolved between the two sides. The prime minister gave details regarding a non-paper which defines the aims of the security arrangements. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports from Paris:

[Begin recording] [Kouts] Yitzhaq Rabin left Paris satisfied with the development of bilateral relations in the security sphere and with the chances of signing an agreement with the EU by the end of the month. On the political level, although the French Presidency issued a statement saying that France regards the first of July as a target date in the Israeli-Palestinian process, President Chirac did not say so outright in his meeting with Rabin, and in a news conference he even hazarded the assessment that peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon will be signed by the end of the year.

Rabin used the visit for expounding to his hosts the state of the negotiations with Syria. He said he knows nothing about a secret track in Europe. It is possible that some Israeli has met some Syrian, but we are not dealing here with official representatives or negotiations. Rabin said that unfortunately he was not aware of any planned meeting with President al-Asad. The gaps remain wide on four issues: the border line, the duration of the withdrawal to this line, bolstering normalization following a slight withdrawal, and the security arrangements. Rabin gave out details regarding the document that has been achieved with Syria. He stressed that nothing was signed.

[Rabin] For four or five months we have dealt with formulating what is known as a non-paper [last word in English] — which is not signed — aimed at defining the aims of the security arrangements. This document has no bearing on the peace border. It deals with the aims of the security arrangements, and it is acceptable to us. The phrasing permits us to accept the principle of reciprocity and equality only in the context of an overall view of the security arrangements in connection to an Israeli-Syrian peace treaty. I do not know what we need this document for or why the non-paper should have been delayed.

[Kouts] Rabin hopes that it will now be possible to negotiate to the point, rather than dealing with the non-paper. [end recording]

Rabin on Referendum, Lebanon, Darwish Visit

TA1406100395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jun 95 p A5

[Report by Nitzan Horowitz in France]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the course of his appearances in Paris, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that the peace agreement would be brought before the people in a national referendum, in its entirety, before it was signed. "The referendum will not pose a theoretical question with regard to withdrawal on the Golan Heights," Rabin said. "The people will have to decide whether or not they support the peace agreement. The question in the referendum will be made very clear," the prime minister emphasized. Rabin said he attributed great importance to the meeting between

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the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff scheduled to take place in Washington at the end of the month and added that a meeting had already been set between the ambassadors of both countries in order to discuss the results of the military officers talks. The ambassadors' meeting will be attended by all, or most, of the members of the U.S. peace team.

Rabin expressed the hope that the peace accord would be formulated before the Israeli elections, but stressed that the gaps between the parties were still wide. "We will be wiser after the meeting between the chiefs of staff," he said.

The prime minister sharply attacked the intention to make any changes in the Golan Law conditional on a special majority and expressed the assessment any such move could be foiled. "The very fact that those opposed to withdrawal on the Golan Heights are seeking to make any changes in the Golan Law conditional on a special majority in the Knesset or in the national referendum proves that they fear the people's verdict," he said.

Rabin refused to comment on President 'Ezer Weizman's remarks on the peace process stating that "the president says what he feels, and I will not address this issue publicly."

Within the framework of his talks with French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppe, Rabin focused on the Lebanese problem. Rabin claimed that Israel was prepared to sign a peace agreement with Lebanon as a confidence-building measure vis-a-vis Syria. The prime minister explained that Israel had no territorial dispute with Lebanon, but asserted that "Syria was not allowing Beirut any maneuvering room."

Rabin also commented on the visit of Palestinian poet Mahmud Darwish, who lives in exile in Paris. The prime minister has permitted Darwish to visit Gaza but not Israel. "I want to see what he will say in Gaza with regard to the peace process and terrorism. It all depends on his good behavior," Rabin said.

Peres: No Decision on Withdrawal Limit Made

TA1306173295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Rafi Ginat and Mikhal Gazit; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ginat] Good evening, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good evening to you.

[Ginat] The remarks of the president yesterday and of the finance minister today reveal that withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights, and not on the Golan Heights, is at stake. Are you prepared to make a similarly explicit statement?

[Peres] Look, I can only speak for myself; I am not and will not be a commentator on other people's remarks. If you have questions for me, I will gladly reply.

[Ginat] Of course. I am asking whether you would also be prepared to make a similarly explicit statement that there is going to be a withdrawal....

[Peres, interrupting] I have already said whatever I was prepared to say. Had I wanted to add, I would not have hesitated.

[Ginat] Yosi Sarid said yesterday that the president is right, that the government is indeed prepared to return to the international border.

[Peres] The official and unofficial truth is that the government has not discussed any border, international or other. Moreover, the time for a government discussion has not yet come, because you do not discuss things before the negotiations; rather, you discuss the outcome of the negotiations. The negotiations are just beginning, which is why all the pronouncements — with all due respect.... [pauses] There is no such decision at all.

[Gazit] There is perhaps no decision, Minister Peres, but maybe these pronouncements are not accidental, maybe the government does not object to having public opinion prepared in anticipation of withdrawal, perhaps it thinks the pronouncements will inure us to the facts.

[Peres] If you think the entire matter is about inuring public opinion, you may be right, but I think decisions have to be made. Furthermore, there is a gross exaggeration of the importance of polls, of public opinion. Public opinion's temperature is taken three times a day. I do not think any of that is necessary; that is not how a country is run. We received a four-year mandate, and we will be judged on the results. We are merely at the beginning of the negotiations, and we should have the freedom to conduct the negotiations according to the mandate we received. When we do achieve results, they will be either submitted for a referendum or for a [Knesset] resolution. This is not a game in which high ratings or public images are pursued, these are very serious negotiations. We told the Syrians clearly that we are prepared to make concessions, including territory, and we expect them to compromise too. I hope we will meet each other halfway in a spot where peacemaking is possible. [passage omitted]

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Rabin Aide: Shohat Golan Remarks 'Private Initiative'

TA1306163795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rabin government deserves very low marks in policy presentation. Even cabinet ministers discuss negotiations conducted by officials and army staffers without necessarily voicing the official policy or adhering to the official public relations line, which simply does not exist. Yesterday Israelis heard President 'Ezer Weizman's announcement that the government is inclined to withdraw to the international border on the Golan Heights, while today they heard Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's pronouncement on the scope of withdrawal:

[Begin Shohat recording] To reach an agreement with Syria, we will be forced eventually to give almost all the territory back to the Syrians. It will be traumatic if the settlements have to be evacuated at some point in time, but I assume most settlements will have to be evacuated. [end recording]

The two were ostensibly expressing the Israeli stand on the negotiations. And yet the prime minister had something else to say. While speaking of painful withdrawal, he stressed that the depth of withdrawal has not yet been established through negotiations, and he is not prepared to discuss the eventual border line. In fact, the negotiations will not begin before the end of the month, when the chiefs of staff will meet, and withdrawal will not be discussed even then.

Yitzhaq Rabin's media adviser 'Aliza Goren told us from Paris a short while ago that she does not know if the finance minister coordinated his remarks on a Golan withdrawal with the prime minister. She said it must have been a private initiative, the personal interpretations of both the president and the finance minister prompted by recent developments and by their understanding of the situation.

In practice, these pronouncements serve another purpose — likewise unintentional and unplanned: preparing the Israeli public for a great concession, for the heavy price that will be paid for peace with Syria — withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Beilin: Ross' Comments on Agreement 'His Own'

TA1406073995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Dr. Beilin, in a speech in Washington yesterday, Dennis Ross said that a referendum in Israel about the peace agreement with Syria will be held only after an agreement is finalized and signed. Assuming that Dennis Ross is familiar with all the details of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, are we to understand that the Israeli Government has again misled the public by saying that the referendum will precede the signing of the agreement?

[Beilin] I must say that this interpretation by Dennis Ross is exclusively his own. The Israeli Government has promised that, notwithstanding the fact that according to Israeli law such an agreement can be approved by the government own its own and that Menahem Begin submitted an agreement of this nature for the Knesset's approval, we promised that we will submit the issue to the entire public via a referendum or general elections. No agreement with Syria will be implemented prior to being submitted to the public in the form of a referendum or elections.

[Dan] We are not talking here about implementation, but about when the agreement is signed.

[Beilin] It is possible that Ross referred to technical matters. For example, if you sign an agreement and stipulate — as is acceptable — that the agreement is conditional on parliamentary approval or on a referendum, this has been done in the past. The two sides may also initial or sign the agreement on condition that the document is implemented when another element — say a kingdom, parliament, or a referendum — approves it. There is no change of policy here. It is a technical deliberation of what precedes what: signing the agreement or a referendum. In any case, there will be no agreement, nor will any agreement be implemented, without a referendum.

[Dan] You started out by saying that Dennis Ross was speaking only for himself, whereas now it seems that you do not disagree with him.

[Beilin] Look, I am not familiar with any Israeli Government decision of the kind Dennis Ross was referring to. I believe this was his attempt to explain what we have said. It is true that we will not reach any agreement with Syria if we assess that such an agreement stands no chance of being approved by the public. In this respect Ross was certainly accurate.

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[Friedman] Dr. Beilin, it will be difficult to convince the public to support such an agreement, seeing that normalization will commence only after it is signed. Moreover, Rabin yesterday said that al-Asad — contrary to al-Sadat at the time — is refusing to meet him before the agreement is approved.

[Beilin] This is your personal assessment, which can be either correct or incorrect. I think that if we present the public with an agreement that includes satisfactory security arrangements we will be able to convince a majority to support it. If it supports the agreement it will be implemented; if, God forbid, it does not support it, then there will be no agreement.

Rabin, Peres Brief Norway's Godal on Peace Talks

TA1406091195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin expressed the hope that a transfer of powers agreement with the Palestinians will be achieved early next month. He made these remarks during a meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Godal. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Godal earlier met Foreign Minister Peres, who briefed him about the three components of the negotiations with the Palestinians. Referring to the issue of elections, Foreign Minister Peres said many of the issues have been concluded, except for the size of the Palestinian council and the voting of Jerusalem Arabs. Regarding the issue of the transfer of powers, Mr. Peres — like the prime minister — said that in his opinion the issue can be concluded by the beginning of next month, although the issue of implementation will be discussed at a later stage and the implementation itself will be spread out over a period of weeks or months. On the issue of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, Peres said this is a problematic and expensive security-related issue. Our correspondent notes this means that the negotiations over this issue and the redeployment itself will take a long time.

The Norwegian foreign minister discussed the peace process with 'Arafat and Nabil Sha'th in Gaza yesterday.

Godal 'Confident' of 1 Jul Date

TA1406124895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The agreement on elections in the territories is nearly done; only two major issues still remain in dispute, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today. He confirmed Dennis Ross' remarks last night that the agreement between Israel and Syria will be approved by a referendum only after it is signed. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Contrary to remarks Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin made this morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed the remarks of U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross that Israel and Syria will sign a peace agreement and only then will it be presented to the Israeli people for a referendum:

[Peres] Any agreement that is signed will be on condition that the nation approves it. This is self evident. In order for the people to approve it, they must know just what the agreement is. Otherwise, what would we ask them? That is to say: We have to conclude the negotiations and sign the agreement conditionally — and this is common practice — then it is approved in a referendum; this is called ad referendum.

[Segal] Peres made the remarks after a meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Godal. In the meeting, Peres briefed Godal on the peace process, mainly on the Palestinian track. The agreement on elections in the territories is nearly done, Peres said, except for two hard points of disagreement — the size of the elected council and the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the elections. Peres stressed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria is the most problematic issue, it requires meticulous studies and large sums of money.

The Norwegian foreign minister later met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and told him that yesterday he saw that the atmosphere and the economic situation in Gaza has improved. Rabin expressed the hope that the negotiations on empowerment would end by the beginning of July.

[Godal, in English] I must say I feel relatively confident that we will see a result by the given time limit — 1 July. This is very important.

[Segal, translates and continue] This not only important for the Israelis and the Palestinians, but it is important for the renewal of the donor countries' commitment to the peace process, Godal said.

Rabin and Peres attacked the Arab countries, primarily Saudi Arabia, for not meeting their commitments and not delivering the money they promised to the Palestinian Authority. [end recording]

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Peres on PA Elections, West Bank Security

TA1306161395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Report by David Ze'ev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the two areas still unresolved concerning the elections in the territories are the number of members in the Palestinian council and how East Jerusalem Palestinians will vote.

On reviving the East Jerusalem municipality, Peres said this:

[Begin Peres recording] They can want whatever they want; the Palestinian Authority [PA] has no say concerning Jerusalem as part of the interim agreement. They don't have there any position. The interim agreement does not include Jerusalem, and in Jerusalem there is just one municipality, and so it will remain. Jerusalem is under the authority of the State of Israel. [end recording]

A Knesset official at the closed-door meeting quotes Peres as saying that on the security arrangements for the West Bank, new ideas are necessary, because the proposals which have been considered cannot be implemented. This is how the foreign minister put it to reporters later on a more optimistic note:

[Begin Peres recording] And if really the two parties will be inventive, creative, forthcoming, there is no reason why we should not meet the 1 July as a date on which we should be able to conclude the agreement. [end recording]

On Jerusalem, the foreign minister was sharply criticized by Labor Party colleague 'Imanu'el Zismann, who has also been fighting the government on the Golan Heights issue. Zismann accused Peres of underestimating Palestinian activities in East Jerusalem.

The level of-debate in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee continued to deteriorate at the session, with Chairman Ori Or at one point insulting the intelligence of Tzomet committee member Moshe Peled. And Peres, after a sharp exchange with the Likud's Beni Begin, turned to the committee chairman and said: Enough of this family.

But the foreign minister also relayed a warning to Europe over its unwillingness to act against Iran. Peres said in the committee meeting: The Europeans say it's not so bad, it's possible to talk to the Iranians. This reminds me, he said, of the days of Hitler.

Netanyahu on Dangers of West Bank Redeployment

TA1306164495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says Islamic republics will be created if a military redeployment takes place in the West Bank.

Speaking to the Foreign Press Association today, Netanyahu predicted that attacks on Israelis will resume as soon as more territory is handed over to the PLO.

Joint PA-IDF Patrols To Begin in West Bank

TA1306095195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Jun 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned from military sources that the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will begin operating joint patrols in the West Bank as early as next month, along the lines of the patrols currently being conducted in Gaza and Jericho.

Janin will be the first city where the patrols will be operated. A total of 30 patrols will be operated in seven main cities in the West Bank: Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron.

Israeli and Palestinian officials have been holding coordination meetings and preliminary tours in anticipation of the operation of the patrols. It was decided that the 30 joint patrols would operate 24 hours a day. Each patrol will consist of two jeeps, one Israeli and the other Palestinian.

A senior Israeli officer recently said that the operation of the joint patrols is expected to run into many difficulties and that he is not sure that the format of the patrols conducted in Gaza and Jericho will suit Judaea and Samaria.

IDF Officers Refuse To Participate

TA1406125695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers are refusing to take part in joint patrols with the Palestinian Police. A training course for officers was scheduled to start this week, but it was called off due to the small number of participants.

According to a military source, the IDF managed to recruit only half the number of officers who were slated to attend. "The course could not start with such a small

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number of participants, and that is why it was postponed indefinitely."

The source added: "An officer graduating from officers' school expects to command a platoon, but is being told to command three men in a jeep instead. Obviously, this is not what a young officer yearns to do."

The fact that the course did not open this week and that no date has been set for its opening might disrupt the implementation of the understandings and accords reached with the Palestinian Authority to start operating the joint patrols as early as in July in Janin.

MA'ARIV reported yesterday that joint patrols with the Palestinian Police would start in July. In response, the IDF spokesman issued the following communique last night: "We would like to explain that the report is untrue and that there are no plans to start operating joint patrols next month." In a subsequent communique, the spokesman noted that "the Border Police and the IDF together decided to postpone the start of the course by a month, until all the officers who meet the requirements are assembled."

King Husayn Sends Message to Rabin on Jerusalem

TA1306180495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn today [as heard] presented Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with a detailed plan for solving the Jerusalem problem. This has been disclosed by a senior Jordanian source who is close to the king.

The basis of the proposal is the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian body which will run the places holy to Islam. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that three weeks ago, on the night before the Knesset vote on the issue of the Jerusalem land exproporiations, King Husayn sent a delegation to Rabin's house that carried the special message on the Jerusalem issue.

Minister To Review Jerusalem Demolition Orders

TA1306145095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister David Liba'i, in his capacity as acting interior minister, has ordered the demolition of houses in Jerusalem to be held up following the violent demonstration staged at noon today over the demolition of a house in the village of 'Isawiyah.

Liba'i will hold a meeting with the head of the Planning and Construction Inspection Unit and with the Interior Ministry's Jerusalem District commissioner. The minister also asked the attorney general to review the legality of the demolition orders that have been issued.

Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that Minister Liba'i heard about the demolition of the 'Isawiyah house only after it was over. Border Police used force in the course of the demonstration in 'Isawiyah. Two press photographers and several residents were injured.

Students Held for Firing Near al-Husayni's House

TA1406112995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jun 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Five members of the Forum for Greater Jerusalem, students at Jerusalem's Bet Orot yeshiva, were arrested last night suspected of shooting in the air near the home of Faysal al-Husayni, police said. Al-Husayni, in charge of Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian Authority, was not home at the time and no one was hurt. The five were arrested at a Jerusalem police station when they arrived to complain that their car windshield had been damaged by rocks thrown outside al-Husayni's home, police said.

Palestinians Said Spreading Incitement on Internet

TA1406103095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jun p 6

[Report by Itamar Eichner and Dori Goldman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians have began to make systematic use of the Internet, the international computer network, in order to disseminate virulent anti-Israeli propaganda.

Dozens of Palestinian organizations operating from cities in the United States, Germany, Britain, and the territories are behind the incitement.

One of the Palestinian bulletins claims that "Israel uses Palestinian prisoners as guinea pigs for testing chemical, biological, and atomic weapons" in Nes Ziyyona.

The authors quote passages referring to the above from the book about the Mosad by Viktor Ostrovsky and recommend purchasing the book with a $6 discount by calling a certain phone number listed on the screen.

The political battle over Jerusalem has also reached the Internet. One can find extensive information about the Palestinian Authority's [PA] activities in Jerusalem, Palestinian institutions operating in the city, PA ministers working out of Jerusalem, including Rabbi Moshe

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Hirsch, the minister for Jewish affairs. Some of the telephone numbers on the list belong to the Orient House.

The Palestinians are also distributing information sheets appealing to U.S. congressmen to halt foreign aid to Israel and attacking the peace process.

Professor Ari'el Kohen of Tzomet, who is a Jerusalem municipal councilman, called on the city's leaders to launch an information counteroffensive on the Internet.

Several weeks ago, YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported on a new Palestinian forum, based in London, which distributes a map of Palestine with no mention of Israel.

Our correspondent notes that although approximately 40 million people are connected to the Internet, veteran users stay clear of these electronic forums, which enable any lunatic to air their views.

Agreement Reached on Omani Desalination Project

TA1406112695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Jun 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has agreed to forward $3 million in financial aid to Oman for participating in the establishment of a regional water desalination research center. This was said by political sources in Jerusalem yesterday.

The sources said the United States has agreed to contribute a similar amount of money for the project, which is slated to serve the entire region. Oman announced the overall cost of the project for the next 10 years will be $30 million, which means that much work remains in raising the remaining sum.

Oman is a relatively rich country in the Arab world with an annual per capita GDP of approximately $7,000. At the same time Oman's affluence falls far below that of its Persian Gulf neighbors Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE.

The political sources emphasized that the Israeli funds do not constitute Israeli "aid" to Oman, rather participation in regional projects which are the outcome of the peace process. The sources noted that for the last few months the United States has been pressuring Israel to participate financially in the regional projects.

The sources added that Israeli billionaire Sha'ul Eisenberg will visit Oman next week to discuss with local authorities the establishment of a large desalination center. The sources said there is no connection between this center and the research center which Israel has agreed to partially finance.

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King Husayn 'Proud' of Israeli Peace Treaty

JN1306202095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has said Jordan is proud of its peace treaty with Israel signed last October. The king said that under the peace accord, Jordan has regained its occupied lands, secured a fair share of water, and established international borders with Israel for the first time ever. He voiced hope the accord will set an example for others in the region and be a cornerstone for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His majesty the king made the remarks in an address before the 86th annual conference of the International Rotary Organization in Nice, France. The king said Jordan has ended 50 years of conflict with Israel in order to achieve a substantial change in the standard and quality of life of all peoples of the region.

His majesty the king reaffirmed that there is a lot to be done to heal old wounds and make peoples feel the real and tangible fruits of peace in their daily life. His majesty pointed out that economic development should be launched as part of the regional framework and include both the public and private sectors.

Al-Kabariti on 'Sharp' Differences With Israel

JN1006091595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 10 Jun 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said there is still a wide gap between the Arab parties and Israel concerning the repatriation of displaced Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes after 1967.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ASWAQ, al-Kabariti said that the gap between the Arab parties and Israel is getting wider when discussing the problem of displaced Palestinians and defining who is a displaced person. Israel insists on a specific definition of the displaced that differs from the unified Arab understanding which shows a constant and joint stand when discussing the issue.

Many sharp differences surfaced during a meeting held by the four-way technical committee in Beersheba on Wednesday [7 June]. These differences centered on the number of displaced people to be included in the right to repatriation when reaching an agreement on the problem. Regarding the possibility of postponing the four-way ministerial meeting aimed at discussing the problem of the displaced, al-Kabariti said that more work needs to be done before convening a meeting on the ministerial level, noting that there is still a big opportunity to hold bilateral contacts between the concerned parties.

Further on Visit of Iranian Industries Minister

Meets Prime Minister on Cooperation

LD1306152395 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, June 13, IRNA — Iranian Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh in a meeting here today with Jordan's Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir, announced the Islamic Republic readiness to cooperate with Jordan in the industrial and commercial fields. Ne'matzadeh, who arrived here at the head of a delegation on Saturday [10 June], briefed Shakir on consolidation of Tehran-Amman relations.

Shakir, for his part underlined cooperation among Islamic states and said Amman was ready to cooperate with Tehran for promotion of commercial affairs and implementation of joint transportation projects, especially that of a direct airlink between the two countries.

Ne'matzadeh was earlier in Damascus, where he held talks with Syrian officials on expansion of trade-industrial relations.

Comments on U.S. Embargo, Iraqi Ties

JN1406083195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 14 Jun 95 p 10

[Report by Yusuf al-Hamdani]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Industry Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh has said that the message he carried from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his majesty the king underlines the profound relations between the two countries, "which wish to promote their relations" and give them a new boost.

He added that Jordan and Iran have taken good steps in this direction, but this does not mean that matters will change completely overnight, as economic issues need gradual steps and appropriate circumstances.

He said that the agreements signed with Jordan set the stage for industrial and trade companies on both sides to promote their relations.

Ne'matzadeh said that the effect of the U.S. economic embargo against Iran, if any, is minor. He said that the United States and its partners are the only losers from this embargo.

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In a news conference, Ne'matzadeh said that with the exception of Israel, the U.S. decision has not been supported by any state. He said Iran's economic relations with the United States are very minor, especially since the United States buys only very small quantities of Iranian oil. He said that Iranian imports from the United States were confined to some commodities, such as corn, rice, and some chemical materials and fertilizers, which can be obtained from other world markets.

He said that according to U.S. statistics, U.S. exports to Iran were worth about $360 million. That constituted 2-3 percent of Iran's total imports. Therefore, the Iranian economy will not be affected by losing that figure.

He said that Iran's foreign policy is based on the need to promote its relations with all Islamic states. He added: We wish to set matters straight between us and Iraq, especially since Iran is currently trying to clear the atmosphere with Iraq.

On the U.S. blockade against Iraq, Ne'matzadeh said that Iran believes that the Muslim Iraqi people have done nothing wrong, and that the international community should put an end to this injustice.

He said that the United States has declared an economic war against Iran so that it would not have much room to help the Muslim Iraqi people.

He said that there are no Iranian exports to Iraq, but there is an exchange of commodities at the Iraqi-Iranian border. He said that this trade has been going on for many years now. He said that Iran does not include this border cooperation with Iraq within its statistics.

Ne'matzadeh said that Iran suffered immense losses during the Iraq-Iran war. The losses were estimated by the United Nations at about $100 billion. However, according to our documents, the losses are much more than the UN estimates.

He indicated that after the war, Iran had to reconstruct what the war had destroyed and implement delayed projects, especially the infrastructure projects.

He said: We had two options, either to postpone the reconstruction of Iran or to expedite it. We have chosen the second option. Therefore, we had to take debts from abroad.

He said that Iran's economic structure is strong, especially after it completed the implementation of the first five-year plan a year ago. He said the focus of the plan was to build a developed economy and to support the infrastructure and industrial development.

he indicated that before the implementation of the first five- year plan, the economic growth was below zero. After the implementation of the plan, an approximately 8 percent growth rate was achieved.

He said that the unemployment problem in Iran has been overcome. In addition, major energy, road, and railway projects have been implemented.

He said that the rate of industrial growth has amounted to 12 percent.

He indicated that Iran's production of iron and steel before the first five-year plan amounted to 1.2 million tonnes annually, but now it has amounted to 4.5 mullion tonnes. During the next two years, the production will amount to 6 million tonnes. As for the petrochemicals production, it has increased from 2 million tonnes before the plan to 7 million tonnes now.

He noted a substantial increase in Iranian non-oil exports. He said that while non-oil exports used to constitute 10 percent of Iran's hard currency in the past, now they constitute 30 percent of Iran's hard currency.

He indicated that Iran has no U.S. debts. On the contrary, he said, the United States is indebted $10-11 billion to Iran in the form of frozen Iranian assets in U.S. banks.

Stresses Increased Trade, Departs

JN1406112295 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, 14 Jun (PETRA) — Iranian Industry Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh has stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between Jordan and Iran and of increasing the volume of trade transactions. He underlined the importance of activating the role of the private sectors in both countries to establish joint investment ventures in all fields. He called for reinforcing the bases of economic cooperation between Jordan and Iran in the interest of the peoples of the two countries.

The Iranian minister made these remarks before departing Amman back to his country at the conclusion of a working visit of several days to the Kingdom. During the visit, he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message deals with bilateral cooperation and ways of promoting them. [passage omitted]

Economic Agreements Signed With Iranian Team

Phosphoric Agreement Detailed

JN1406084095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jun 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.) — Iran is to import Jordanian phosphates sufficient for Iranian fac-

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tories' needs and will buy 300,000 tonnes of ammonium phosphate during 1995, according to an agreement signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Tuesday.

The agreement, which was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu al-Raghib and visiting Iranian Minister of Industry Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, said that the two sides agreed on launching a joint project for producing phosphoric acid using Jordanian phosphate and Iranian ammonia and sulphur in the process. The project will be implemented in light of a feasibility study that is still to be conducted by the two sides as soon as possible, according to the agreement.

Under the agreement also, the two sides will encourage the execution of joint ventures by their respective private sectors especially in the manufacture of vehcles including buses, tractors and other agricultural equipment.

The Iranian side expressed interest in helping to reactivate the Jordan Glass Factory in the Ma'an Governorate and said Iranian factories would be buying Jordanian aluminium fluoride.

The two sides expressed interest in benefiting from each other's maritime commercial fleets and in organising the process of maritime transportation between their ports and beyond towards Southeast and Western Asia.

The agreement also provides for the two sides to cooperate in tourism noting that they will soon sign a protocol to organise tourist group visits and also for the two countries to cooperate in energy and electricity and in the exploration of oil and natural gas.

In exchanged speeches at the signing ceremony the two ministers expressed hope that the agreement would boost trade exchanges and bolster economic cooperation between their two countries.

Also Tuesday Mr. Ne'matzadeh and his team visited the Sahab Industrial City, toured its factories and learned about the facilities offered to investors in Jordan's industrial projects.

Fayiz Suheimat, head of the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), who accompanied the visitors, presented an outline of the prospects for investment in the country's industrial cities and the development of industry in Jordan in general.

Jordan has another industrial city near Irbid.

Also Tuesday, Mohammad Ismail undersecretary of the Iranian Ministry of Transport visited his Jordanian counterpart, Samir Kawar, and discussed the implementation of a land transport agreement signed by Mr. Nematzadeh and Mr. Kawar Monday.

Jordan intends to encourage trade exchange with Iran and hopes to exchange Jordanian phosphates, fertilisers and potash for Iranian sulphur and amonia, said Mr. Kawar.

Draft Transportation Accord Outlined

JN1206164095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A draft agreement on passenger and commodity transportation between Jordan and Iran was signed at the Ministry of Transportation this evening.

The agreement was signed for the Jordanian side by Engineers 'Abdallah al-Jubur, director of road transportation, and Ziyad al-Kayid, and for the Iranian side by ('Awad Bahmanzadeh), assistant director general of transit and international transportation.

It provides for facilitating the transportation of passengers and commodities between both countries in addition to facilities and procedures concerning the drivers between both countries.

It also includes facilities and procedures for drivers and workers in the transportation sector in both countries as well as the legal commitments of the workers in the transportation sector.

The agreement, which falls within he framework of the bilateral economic committee, also provides for setting up a joint committee to follow up on implementing its articles, study the obstacles that may arise in the future, and find appropriate solutions for them according to the requirements of transportation between both countries.

The joint committee will meet once every two years in Amman and Tehran either alternately or in view of developments at the request of either party.

It is noteworthy that talks are being held with the guest Iranian delegation to reach another agreement in the field of maritime transportation and ports. The second agreement is designed to activate cooperation in the field of air transportation and reopen the Amman-Tehran air route.

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Buwayz Sets Conditions for Resuming Talks

NC1306201995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that there are fast-breaking developments in the peace process in the Middle East. He noted that the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel may resume provided that there is credibility and that an invitation is received from the United States. He said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] There are successive developments in the Middle East, particularly regarding the peace process. I met with the Chamber of Deputies speaker to review these developments and to work out a stance on how to deal with the process in the future. There is some progress and understanding—I do not say agreement because the term has a broader sense—on the headlines of security arrangements but not a final plan for the security arrangements. There is no doubt that this constitutes positive progress, but this is only part of a whole process, which includes other aspects that have not yet been resolved. In any case, we discussed these points and other domestic issues. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' may visit Lebanon tomorrow to brief us on the latest developments. On the domestic level, we discussed the best ways to launch the government work and to bring about understanding and coordination with the Chamber of Deputies in the next stage on all levels, particularly the economic and social ones.

[Unidentified correspondent] What about the visit of Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, to Lebanon as part of his tour of the region?

[Buwayz] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Pelletreau may bring certain proposals. So far, we have not been notified about any proposals and whether new ideas may be presented to us. I have already said that an understanding has been reached on the headlines of the arrangements. Syrian-Israeli military committees will be formed to implement these headlines and to translate the details into action. When this plan is implemented and we become (?assured) of Israel's credibility in addressing these issues and receive an invitation to resume the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, we will then discuss the issue.

[Correspondent] Do you expect [words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] I have already said that our first condition is to be sure that there is credibility and this is expressed in an integrated plan for arrangements. Our second condition is to receive an invitation from the United States to begin or resume the talks.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Buwayz] We hope that all these points will be settled within the next two months.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Buwayz] With more hope and appreciation, the current efforts can be understood. [end recording]

Buwayz Comments on Pelletreau, al-Shar' Visits

NC1406105995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring arrived in Beirut this morning. [passage omitted]

The Irish minister was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who remarked:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency Minister Buwayz, what is your comment on the Irish foreign minister's visit to Lebanon today?

[Buwayz] We welcome the Irish foreign minister to Lebanon, particularly since Ireland is a friendly state which participates in the UN forces and shares with Lebanon the burdens and problems inherent in the Israeli occupation. There are several common denominators between Lebanon and Ireland regarding the nature of the two peoples and the nature of the expatriates phenomenon and other traditions. We will benefit from this visit. We will talk about the best means to promote our ties.

[Correspondent] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Robert Pelletreau are expected to arrive in Beirut today. In your capacity as the head of the Lebanese diplomacy, what is your comment on these two visits and what do you expect from them?

[Buwayz] Obviously, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will come to Beirut on the instructions of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to brief the Lebanese president and officials on the ongoing talks between Syria and Israel, particularly after the trips of Secretary Christopher and Mr. Dennis Ross to the region. I said earlier that no doubt there is understanding—and I say understanding and not agreement—over basic main topics in the security arrangements that have already been made. This understanding will make it possible to appoint expert committees led by the chiefs of staff of the two countries to finalize and implement these main topics. I believe that Minister Faruq al-Shar' will put us in the complete picture on all these realities.

[Correspondent] What about Pelletreau's visit?

[Buwayz] As for Pelletreau's visit, about which there has been much talk these days, it will focus on our situation from the U.S. perspective. This will also pave

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the way for discussing relations between Lebanon and the United States.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, what would be the impact of the Syrian-Israeli agreement on the Lebanese-Syrian track?

[Buwayz] I said earlier that if the military committees succeed in finalizing and implementing the main topics, this will indeed encourage Lebanon and make it believe that there is a positive factor in the Israeli stand and there is credibility in dealing with the peace process. All this would pave the way for a possible Lebanese participation in a Lebanese-Israeli committee if a U.S. invitation is made to this effect. [end recording]

Irish Foreign Minister Arrives in Beirut

NC1406082795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring arrived in Beirut today leading a high-ranking delegation on a three-day visit to Lebanon. The Irish delegation will meet with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Tomorrow Spring will inspect his country's contingent that is operating as part of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. He will leave Lebanon for Damascus on Friday [16 June].

Reportage on Fighting in Palestinian Camps

Ten Reportedly Killed in Camp

NC1306132795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Things remain unstable in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp with sporadic clashes continuing between Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir 'Arafat's supporters and opponents. There are conflicting reports on the military map and the distribution of forces on the ground. Security sources say the situation remains the same, with neither of the disputing sides making gains. AFP reported that the forces loyal to 'Arafat were in control of only a few homes at the northern approach to the camp.

A short time ago it was declared that contacts held by the popular committee in the camp stabilized the cease-fire and led to the formation of a disengagement force from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This force has been deployed in the streets that were the scene of the clashes. [passage omitted]

Earlier today Colonel Munir al-Maqdah said the clashes would not stop until the sources of corruption are destroyed. He was referring to 'Arafat's supporters' posts. al-Maqdah earlier gave his adversaries a deadline to hand over the killers of his cousin, who was killed in the clashes. He threatened to annihilate 'Arafat's supporters in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. Responding to al-Maqdah's threat, Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn, the military commander of the forces loyal to 'Arafat, who is barricading himself in the al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre, said that al-Maqdah tried to occupy our positions last night but failed. He said the continuation of the clashes proves that neither al-Maqdah nor anyone else can unilaterally seize Fatah's decisionmaking. Fatah is not easy pickings, he said.

The clashes raise questions on the situation in the camp, which has turned into the scene of a fierce battle, as AFP reported.

Today's clashes, in which rockets, mortars, and machine guns were used, erupted after al-Maqdah adopted an intransigent stance over the killing of his cousin Jamal al-Maqdah in last night's clashes.

Latest reports say the clashes left 10 people dead and 30 injured. [passage omitted]

Fighting Stops; Agreement Reached

NC1306135995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1143 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest developments in the Palestinian camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, AFP reported that the clashes stopped in the camp at 1300 today. AFP cited Palestinian sources as saying that the clashes stopped after the popular committee in the camp succeeded in working out an agreement under which 'Arafat's supporters handed over the checkpoint that they set up at the northern approach to the camp to representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Under the agreement, 'Arafat's supporters can retain their weapons. 'Arafat supporters refused to hand over their main center to the opponents' commander, Munir al-Maqdah, who is surrounding them.

APF Holds 'Arafat Responsible

JN1306190695 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1652 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ayn al-Hulwah—The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] issued a statement in Beirut today following a meeting it held to examine the situation in 'Ayn al-Hulwah. The statement said: The APF in Lebanon strongly condemns this infighting, and the political background that has produced it, and holds

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'Arafat responsible. This fighting is aimed at hurting Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The statement denounced the tools that started this clash in order to drag all nationalists into a civil war whose results were not calculated.

The APF in Lebanon urged all patriotic forces and honorable persons in 'Ayn al-Hulwah to do their best to bring about an immediate cease-fire and act in line with the views of the people and their forces, factions, and popular committees in this regard.

It is to be recalled that 'Arafat's cliques have provoked a new round of internecine fighting. The battles continued yesterday and today. Ten persons were killed and 25 others wounded in the battles. It has been reported that the clashes came to a halt this afternoon.

Army Deploys Troops Around Camps

NC1406055395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese Army is currently instituting patrols at the entrances to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and is preventing traffic to and from the camp for security reasons.

Meanwhile, the army deployed troops around the Palestinian camps in Tyre.

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Radio: Rabin's 'Limited Withdrawal' 'Surprising'

JN1306155595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Everybody knows that the Syrian-Israeli understanding on the broad lines of the security arrangements is only a step on the right path that should be implemented on the ground. Therefore, military officials from both sides are planning to meet in Washington late this month under U.S. auspices to draw up the details of these arrangements. The understanding, however, will be only one aspect of any Syrian-Israeli agreement. There is the issue of a quick and total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan within the framework of a set timetable, as well as the objective requirements of peace. All these aspects are closely linked together. Any security arrangements will be meaningless if the Israeli occupation forces do not return to the 4 June, 1967, lines. In other words, any drive to achieve substantive progress on the road to peace requires profound and objective treatment of all aspects of the conflict between Syria and Israel in accordance with the Security Council resolutions regulating the peace process. Hence, making statements conflicting with the principles of a just and objective solution will not push the peace process forward, particularly since the Israeli officials know well that Syria will not accept any final agreement unless it includes the return of the entire Golan, dismantling the settlements, and the return of the Israeli forces to the 4 June lines.

Syria has strongly defended the principles of equitable [mutakafi'ah] and balanced security arrangements, and it has not been influenced by Israel's attempts to create an imbalance in powers. Therefore, the Israeli prime minister's recent proposal to carry out a limited withdrawal from the Golan in return for full normalization was surprising. Considering the past difficult talks on security arrangements and the ray of hope that appeared for achieving progress toward a just and comprehensive peace, Israeli officials, instead of making vague statements and endangering peace efforts, should have learned a lesson and realized that the Golan cannot be the subject of bargains and that Syria will not relinquish an inch of its land or any of the rights of the inhabitants of the Golan.

Israeli officials, as well as many other circles, have become convinced that peace in the Middle East is impossible without Syria. Therefore, they should promote the peace process and facilitate the mission of the U.S. Administration by meeting the basic peace requirements, chief of which is a total withdrawal. There is no use in resorting yet again to the policy of procrastination regarding total withdrawal because such a policy will once again paralyze peace talks. Current Israeli attempts to instigate forces that are hostile to peace should prompt the Rabin government to clarify matters and talk frankly to the Israeli people to tell them that it is no longer possible to pursue the policy of occupation and expansion and at the same time pretend to have a desire for peace, and that undermining prospects for just peace with Syria will mean undermining comprehensive peace in the region. Pursuers of such a policy will be held fully responsible before the international community.

Press Criticizes Rabin Golan Statement

JN1406075795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Jun 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Balance and Equality," TISHRIN says in an editorial today: As of now, all attention is focused on the meetings of the military officials in Washington on 27 June. That meeting was the product of U.S. Secretary Christopher's visit and in implementation of the agreement of understanding over the security arrangements reached between Syria and Israel under the auspices of the United States. The status of the peace process can be determined in light of the results generated by the military officials' meeting.

TISHRIN notes that the understanding reached over the principles of the security arrangements is a step toward achieving the sought-after peace. However, there is a need for real progress on the ground which must be based on complete withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borderlines and the establishment of reciprocal [mutaqabilah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements on both sides.

In a commentary entitled "Extortion Does Not Make Peace," AL-BA'TH says: The Israeli officials have a hobby of fabricating media clamors by making unfounded statements, carrying out illegal acts, or hatching a conspiracy aiming at measuring the reactions to such acts.

The paper adds: Warren Christopher left Damascus full of optimism. Rabin, however, wanted to stir a clamor by making a statement which he knew in advance would be rejected. He also knew that what was contained in that statement was the reason for the stumbling of negotiations in Washington. Rabin may have even wanted to extort the U.S. visitor. This fact was made clear by a host of demands and options set by the Israeli Government as a price for accepting peace.

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AL-BA'TH stresses that he who wants peace would not make such a list of demands. Regardless of the excuses made by the Israeli rulers, the list of weapons they want is a direct threat to peace and its ingredients and will shake confidence in the sought-after future.

AL-BA'TH says: Israel has not abandoned its old theory. Nor has it abandoned its expansionist strategy. The best evidence on this can be seen in the Israeli statements on a limited withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Since confidence in Israeli rulers is shaken, the Arabs must be wary of such an Israeli hobby, which does not benefit peace or help pave the way toward a comprehensive peace in the region.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says in a commentary: Despite the efforts exerted to end the stalemate in the peace process, the Israeli rulers are still evading commitment to the principles of just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH says: This evasion can be seen very clearly in a statement made by Yitzhaq Rabin soon after Secretary Christopher ended his tour of the region. Rabin said that Tel Aviv will demand a complete normalization of ties with Syria in return for a very limited withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: For the understanding reached over the concepts of the security arrangements and the plans set to implement that understanding to continue to provide a step forward, the dimensions of that understanding must be completed by Israel abiding by, or being forced to abide by, the principles and requirements of the just and comprehensive peace.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel's complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon is the most important element of the just and comprehensive peace. No one can ignore or evade this fact. The paper notes that the United States — through its ceaseless efforts to boost the peace process — has sensed Syria's positive response to the U.S. initiative and the proposals on the just and comprehensive peace. The United States also established, through numerous contacts and on the summit level, the sincerity of Syria's intentions and its interest in achieving peace.

Al-Shar' Stresses Peace Commitment to Cabinet

JN1306164295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers met at 1100 today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The Council discussed current political developments in both the Arab and international arenas.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' presented a review of developments in the peace process in light of the U.S. Secretary of state's tour of the region. Al-Shar' stressed Syria's commitment to bringing about just and comprehensive peace based on a total Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June, 1967, lines and from southern Lebanon.

The foreign minister then explained the goals and principles of the security arrangements, to which Syria is adhering, pointing out that the understanding that has been achieved so far on security arrangements is a suitable framework for the upcoming meetings of military officials in Washington to reach practical arrangements that will guarantee balance and equality [musawah] in security between the two sides.

The foreign minister also stressed that the success of the meetings of the two chiefs of staff in Washington under the auspices and with the participation of the United States will constitute a significant factor for pushing the peace process forward.

The Council of Ministers highly valued Syria's steadfastness in the peace battle, thanks to the wise and courageous policy which has been pursued by President Hafiz al-Asad to epitomize the Arabs' dignity and aspirations and safeguard the rights and interests of the nation. [passage omitted]

Columnist Hails Economic Accomplishments

JN1206123195 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 24 May 95 p 8

["Economic Analysis" column by Jihad al-Na'san: "It Is a Real Accomplishment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fortunately, the work which has been done to develop the Syrian economy has culminated in success and the efforts which have been exerted by the government in recent years have borne fruits; and, here we are now reaping the fruits of years of hard work and perseverance. Modern projects exist everywhere, production has increased beyond all imagination, and we can happily say: Blessed are the hands which have achieved this accomplishment, and blessed are the arms which are building.

We have succeeded through the directives of leader al-Asad in steering the economy along the right course after we have suffered from shortage of production. In the mid-eighties, we did not have enough flour to last a few nights. Today, we are complaining from a storage and disposal crisis after we have succeeded in increasing

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our wheat production several times over. Indeed, we have every right to be proud of the great leap we have made in achieving the food security we have sought. The increases in production are not just confined to wheat, but have also included various crops such as grain, vegetables, fruits, and other agricultural products. Having achieved self-sufficiency, we are now looking for foreign markets to dispose of our surplus production.

While we used to import most commodities, we now complain about the obstacles facing the exportation of our surplus. This is a positive phenomenon and an obvious accomplishment for all to see.

We have succeeded in recent years in achieving big increases in our Gross Domestic Product and gross domestic production, which proves our ability to operate our factories and to devote all our capabilities to the different productive sectors.

In the field of services, the picture is also positive. While we used to complain from shortage of transport means, we now complain from the effects of traffic jams. Development has covered all services: Thousands of telephone lines have been installed and huge projects have been carried out in the sewage, electricity, and other fields. Implementation of infrastructure projects has prompted investors to invest in more projects in Syria.

But the most important accomplishment, which has had a positive effect on the development of the economy, has been the political stability and security which Syria enjoys under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. This accomplishment has been praised by every visitor to Syria and felt by all Arab and foreign tourists, whose number has redoubled in recent years.

This excellent economic situation has enabled Syria to honor its foreign obligations. The debts due on Syria have been paid on time, and the loans and grants have been channeled into development projects to help build the infrastructure, which is so essential to economic growth.

All these accomplishments have not come out of a vacuum, but are the result of a well-studied policy which knows its aims and objectives and seeks to achieve them by every means. So, if the results are great, it is because the efforts which had been exerted were even greater, and so they reflected positively on all of us.

The important thing now is for all of us to reap the fruits of this grand development in the economy and for the resources of the country to be distributed fairly among its sons, especially the low-income people, whose purchasing power has receded and adversely affected the markets and the disposal of surplus production.

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Afghanistan

Government, Taleban Exchange Captives Before Talks

LD1306110095 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 13, IRNA — Afghan government led by President Borhanoddin Rabbani and religious student militia Monday [12 June] released the prisoners they have captured before they entered into a 10-day truce last Friday. According to Afghan sources, Rabbani's administration freed second batch of 50 prisoners from Taleban and secured release of about eight captives from its side. The government as a, "gesture of goodwill" had released six Taleban prisoners on Sunday.

The exchange of prisoners occured as a run-up to the proposed peace talks between the two sides that was due to start on Sunday but was deferred for unknown "technical reasons". The two sides agreed to sit at the table after establishing a 10-day ceasefire which took into effect last Friday.

Envoy: National 'Equations' Should Involve Taleban

LD1406103695 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 14, IRNA — The Afghan government believes that Talebans should be present in all political and military equations and direct negotiations should be held by the two sides in near future, announced the special envoy of President Borhanoddin Rabbani here Wednesday [14 June]. Speaking to IRNA In a telephone contact, Dr. 'Abdollah referred to the issue of interruption of peace talks with General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the Islamic National Movement of Afghanistan, noting that the role of foreign factors should not be neglected in this respect.

"Dostam has never been independent throughout his life," said the envoy, adding that this was the reason for the interruption of peace talks. Dostam has intensified the recent conflicts against the interests of Afghanistan, 'Abdollah noted.

The envoy who had visited Egypt, the U.S., Britain, Germany and the Netherlands to discuss current situation in his country, called on the said countries to help reconstruction of Afghanistan.

He said his visit to the said countries was aimed at encouraging them to reopen their embassies in Kabul and pave the way for reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Members of Dostam Forces Reportedly Taken Prisoner

LD1306173195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five generals and 300 militia of Dostam were taken prisoner in Kohestanat, Jowzjan Province, yesterday, and 500 others defected to mojahedin. Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that a unit of the Dostam militia that wanted to capture the areas of [words indistinct] in Kohestanat district, which have recently been cleared by the Islamic Army forces, was surrounded last night by the Islamic Army forces and mojahedin. After overnight fighting, its members were taken prisoner. During the clashes 10 militia were killed and 15 others injured. Dostam's generals have been identified: Major General Khayr Mohammad, Maj. Gen. [name indistinct], Maj. Gen. Latif, Brigadier General Mohammad Musa, and Brig. Gen. Mohammad Gol. They and their 300 men were taken prisoner by Islamic Army forces. In addition, a large quantity of light and heavy weapons including five military vehicles, three pieces of 75-mm artillery, three medium-size mortars, two pieces of antiaircraft weapons, 20 PK machine guns, 300 Kalashnikovs, and a large quantity of ammunition have been captured by the Islamic Army forces and mojahedin. One hundred riding horses have also been captured.

According to another report, 500 militia of Dostam, realizing the rightness of the Islamic State, joined the Islamic Army forces in Kohestanat yesterday. Commanded by Commander Abdol Haq and Commander Hamidollah, the defecting militia, armed with light and heavy weapons, vowed to fight the Dostam militia. Officials of 26th Jehadi Division based in Jowzjan received the defectors.

India

Daily Views U.S. 'Threat' on MFN Status

BK1406124595 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 13 Jun 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Loose Cannon in World Trade"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What wise men put together, fools try to tear apart. It then becomes incumbent upon the wise to prevent the fools, no matter how powerful they are, from wrecking havoc. That is why the European Union and Japan need to do some straight talking with the US which, under the new-found "toughness" of the Clinton administration, is trying to wreck the world trading order. The latest threat to it comes from a US official who has said that the US will withdraw 'most-favoured nation' (MFN) status from countries which don't open up their financial services sector.

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The MFN status grants the right to every signatory to the Gatt/WTO [World Trade Organization] not be discriminated against in the matter of tariffs. Every signatory is obliged to treat every other signatory on the same basis. It is the lynchpin of international trading operated by the Gatt/WTO system. If the US removes it, it will not be long before the whole edifice, painstakingly put together over the last 45 years, collapses in a heap and trade wars begin.

American anxiety is easy to explain. It enjoys a massive comparative advantage in the export of financial services—placed at around $85 billion last year—and would like to see trade in these services included in the WTO's new trading rules. The deadline for doing this is June 30, which means there is an element of brinkmanship as well in the US position. But given the tactics and strategy which the Clinton administration is employing, the US may well be forced to call its bluff—as it was in the car wars with Japan, now under adjudication in a disputes panel at the WTO. The fat will then truly be in the fire.

The US stand presents India with an excellent opportunity to score some points against the US. Up until now, India has always found itself pushed into a defensive stance for its failure to open up its financial services for domestic political reasons. Indeed, India should open up this sector in its own interest. But that is beside the point in this context. The point is that the WTO has a well defined dispute-settlement mechanism and, as a signatory to the WTO, the US has no business to make threats of unilateral action against trading partners which fail to fall in line. India will be well within its rights to protest American arbitrariness and unilateralism, bypassing all the WTO machinery. If it does so, it will have the sympathy of the international community, still annoyed at the damage America is inflicting upon Gatt's fledgling successor.

In the past, Indian diplomacy was usually of a sufficiently high calibre to utilise such opportunities. Today, Indian politicians are perfectly willing to waste their breath about imagined American slights and threats. Yet when it comes to issues where real moral authority lies with it India opts for stoicism. This is a cause for serious concern, which must be tackled.

Reportage on Prime Minister's Cabinet 'Reshuffle'

AFP Views Possibilities

BK1006084895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0558 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, June 10 (AFP) — India Prime-Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was expected to carry out a cabinet reshuffle Saturday [10 June], on the eve of a three-day visit to France, to stem a revolt in his ruling Congress (I) party, sources said.

The cabinet reshuffle, expected around 5:00 p.m. (1130 GMT), would be the second since February 10, when the 73-year-old premier inducted four new faces into his 55-member cabinet of ministers.

Party sources said Rao was likely to offer K. Karunakaran, a former chief minister of southern Kerala state, a berth in his three-tier cabinet as a reward for attempting a rapprochement between Congress rebels and the premier.

"The prime minister has assured me of a cabinet berth but I do not know the portfolio," Karunakaran told AFP late Friday.

Rao holds the defence portfolio and manages 13 other ministries including information and broadcasting, space, industry, science and technology, electronics and atomic energy.

Newspapers have speculated that Rao was also likely to invite former defence minister Sharad Pawar to rejoin the cabinet since the veteran politician held considerable influence over some 50 Congress MPs.

They said another strong candidate for a ministerial position was R.K. Dhawan, former prime minister Indira Gandhi's secretary who was widely seen as being her close confidant.

The reshuffle also aims to revamp the image of Rao's four-year-old government ahead of general elections next year, party sources said.

They said it was unlikely any current ministers would be removed since the ousted politicians could then immediately join the camp of Rao's rivals, who formed a breakaway faction of the Congress (I) last month.

Arjun Singh, a former number two in the Rao government, split the party on May 19, saying Rao was incapable of leading the 109-year- old Congress to victory in next year's general elections.

Rebel Congress politicians have blamed Rao for the party's string of defeats in recent state elections saying his economic reform policies were largely responsible for the erosion of support for the Congress.

Cabinet Inducts 3 New Ministers

BK1006124295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Union Cabinet has been expanded with the induction of three cabinet ministers. At a ceremony in the Ashoka Hall of the Rashtrapati

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Bhavan [President House] this evening, Mr. A.R. Antulay, Dr. Jagannath Mishra, and Mr. K. Karunakaran were administered the oath of office and secrecy by the president. The vice president, the prime minister, and senior cabinet ministers were present. With the expansion, the Council of Ministers consists of 21 cabinet ministers, including the prime minister, 11 ministers of state with independent charge, 25 ministers of state, and three deputy ministers. Portfolios of the new ministers will be announced later today.

TV Announces Portfolios of Ministers

BK1106150495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Portfolios of the three newly-inducted cabinet ministers have been announced. Mr. A.R. Antulay gets health and family welfare, while Dr. Jagannath Mishra is the minister of rural areas and employment. Mr. K. Karunakaran is the new minister of industry.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] press communique, for the time being the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will continue to be in charge of Foreign Investment and Promotion Board and direct foreign and nonresident Indian investment and industrial and service projects.

Commission Refuses Recognition of 'Breakaway' Group

BK1006130795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Election Commission has rejected the plea of the breakaway Congress-I group led by Mr. N.D. Tiwari for recognition as the Indian National Congress-I and its claim to the hand symbol. Agencies quote commission sources as saying that there are no grounds to recognize the breakaway group as the real Congress-I. In a communication to the breakaway group, the commission has said, as per records, that there is no party by the name of the Indian National Congress-Indira registered with it or recognized by it.

Officials, Media Comment on Elections in Kashmir

Governor Views Pakistani 'Designs'

BK1106090595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The governor of Jammu and Kashmir, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that the state government and major political parties are in favor of early elections in the state. Addressing a seminar in Jammu he said postponing the elections would give an opportunity to Pakistan and its agents to create more problems. General Krishna Rao said that Pakistani designs will never be allowed to succeed.

A team of editors guild is now in Srinagar for an on-the-spot study of the situation in the Kashmir valley. They will meet senior government officials and the local people.

Minister: Elections 'Will Be Held Soon'

BK1206093795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister says the government will do its best to accommodate the opposition's point of view in the criminal law amendment bill. Mr. S.B. Chavan, however, cautioned that if the opposition proposes amendments which make the bill ineffective, then the government will not try for a consensus. Mr. Chavan was talking to newsmen after inaugurating the annual conference of BSF [Border Security Force] commanders in New Delhi today.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, the home minister said the center is having discussions with various political parties and individuals in the state on reviving the political process. He said free and fair elections will be held in the state soon. Earlier, inaugurating the conference, Mr. Chavan expressed satisfaction that the BSF has incorporated human rights in its training curriculum. He said training of the force should be carried out in a highly organized manner and be related to the job content. Mr. Chavan said he is in favor of raising more BSF battalions to cope with the increased workload. The two-day conference is being attended by the director general, the inspectors general, and senior field officers of the BSF.

Daily Views Anti-Election Sentiment

BK1006105795 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 15 Jun 95 pp 59-65

[Article by Ramesh Vinayak under the rubric "Special report": "Jammu and Kashmir: The Election Nobody Wants"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] One more blood-soaked shirt makes little difference in the Kashmir Valley. but last fortnight it carried a clear and ominous message. On May 23, encouraged by New Delhi's resolve to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir, state Congress(I) chief Ghulam Rasool Kar visited Charar Sharif to test the political waters. He came back drenched in blood.

Screaming that he was a traitor, angry residents — many still rummaging through the rubble of what were once their homes — shouted anti-India slogans and pelted stones. One hit Kar on the head. And as blood streamed

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down his shirt, someone from the crowd pulled his collar and said: "How dare you come here for elections?" Nervous policemen fired in the air as Kar was whisked away to safety.

More was to come. The next day, when news of the assault reached Kar's native town of Sopore, in Baramulla district, residents there were equally enraged. "Let him face the public here and he will be lynched," said one. "Not by militants but by his own people." A representative response came from Mohammad Yousaf Sheikh, a young farmer from Narbal on the Srinagar-Baramulla road: "By talking about elections, the Government is rubbing salt into our wounds. "

Such notes of discord amid talks of elections not only reverberated across the Valley but found an echo in New Delhi too. Days after the Charar incident, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had said that elections would be held in Jammu and Kashmir come what may. But given the developments — in Kashmir and at the Centre — that sounded like bravado more than anything else.

Deserted streets greeted Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan when he visited Srinagar on May 27 to assess the situation. Responding to a civil curfew called as a protest against the Centre's move to hold polls, residents stayed indoors. At a press conference in Srinagar, Seshan was noncommittal. On his return to New Delhi, he said: "I am still examining the possibility of holding a free and fair poll in the state. "

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister S.B. Chavan indicated to opposition members that the Government might bring a constitutional amendment bill to extend President's Rule in the state after the current term expires on July 18. And a 22-member all-party delegation which visited Srinagar at Rao's initiative brought back grim news. It reportedly opposed the idea of holding early elections, saying that a lot more spadework needed to be done.

The delegation wasn't off the mark. In fact, in Srinagar, Governor K.V. Krishna Rao is the only one arguing for polls while local politicians echo the refrain: to hold elections in Kashmir, after the gutting of the Charar shrine, will be a "national disaster".

Not that the atmosphere in the Valley was conducive to polls before the shrine was destroyed. A political vacuum together with strong anti-India feelings had always made polls look ineffective if not suspect. What Charar did was to heighten the alienation and make the vacuum more difficult to fill. Signs that people were now eyeing the Government with greater mistrust were evident at several offices of Srinagar's civil authorities. For instance, before Charar, on an average, 125 people would throng an office for redressal of their grievances. Today, there are barely a couple. "The people are sullen once again," admits a senior administrative official.

If the people are angry and disillusioned, the militants have struck political gold. Before Charar, there were indications that the violence of the secessionist movement had somewhat eroded its links with the public. But the shrine's destruction has reinforced those links. And the militants are using it to whip up an anti- election frenzy. At the forefront is the All Party Hurriyat Conference that has made Charar the focus of its strategy to boycott the polls.

And although its May 22 "Charar Chalo" call couldn't muster a crowd of more than 3,000 in Srinagar, the Hurriyat is unfazed. It turned the heat on the administration by launching a fresh anti- election movement from Pulwama district whose residents had great respect for the Charar shrine. Incidentally, Pulwama and Anantnag were the worst affected in the violence that erupted after the shrine was burned down. In Pulwama alone, more than 100 government buildings, which were to be used as polling stations, were torched within a week.

To keep the flames of Charar alive — at least till the proposed polls — the Hurriyat has decided to rebuild the destroyed shrine through one of its constituents, the Muslim Auquaf Trust. Also, it has set up an "Alamdar fund" for the purpose and is contemplating filing a suit for Rs 240 crore in damages against the Government. Not lagging behind, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front's acting chief Yasin Malik, who has fallen out with the Hurriyat, has launched a door-to-door campaign to collect funds and to propagate the boycott of elections.

As for the mainstream parties, talk of elections has done little to help them come out of their years of political hibernation. So intense is the alienation and fear of militants that few are prepared to associate themselves with the polls. Nothing illustrates this better than a recent incident in Taregam village in Baramulla district, home of Mohammad Yousuf Taregami, the general secretary of the state CPI(M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist].

Barely a month ago, Taregami visited his village for the first time since 1989. The return of the native was an occasion: villagers welcomed him with great warmth. A day later, militants of the Hizbul Mujahedin struck. Ahma Bhat, a 70-year-old relative who had kissed Taregami's hands, was shot in his cheek, and a week later, two other villagers who had welcomed the CPI(M) leader were shot in the legs. Says a villager:

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"The message was chilling. Taregami is pro-India and no one should have anything to do with him."

In Ganderbal, the native place of Sheikh Abdullah and the constituency of Farooq Abdullah, villagers express their support for the National Conference (NC) in guarded tones. "To talk about the elections is like inviting death," says Ghulam Ahmed Wani, a farmer of Barvala village, about 30 km from Srinagar. In rural Kashmir, where the NC enjoys support among the peasantry, the fear of militants has overshadowed people's political loyalties.

Still, as of now, elections hinge on the attitude of Abdullah's NC since it is the only local political player which is amenable to autonomy within the parameters of the Constitution. However, Abdullah's insistence on a political and economic package has put the Government in a bind. What has added to the confusion is his studied silence over the Charar incident — he has neither blamed the Government nor the militants.

Ironically, in the Valley, Abdullah is a known quantity — and a discredited one. Memories of the 1987 elections, which were rigged by the NC, are still fresh in many minds. One indication of the public hostility towards Abdullah is that he rarely ventures out of his veritable fortress of a residence on Gupkar Road. Over the past few weeks, he has made only one public appearance and that too on television. His cadres fear meeting him during the day since any association with Abdullah is tantamount to a death warrant from militants.

Meanwhile, Shabir Shah of the People's League, possibly the most popular leader in the Valley, is jittery about the polls. Early last month, six of his supporters, including close associate Javed Kotwal, were killed by militants in Anantnag. The killings, government officials suspect, were carried out by the Hizbul to warn Shah against striking any electoral deal, covert or overt, with the Centre. What has made Shah more vulnerable has been his tacit yet unequivocal shift in stand, from being pro-Pakistan to pro-people.

The fear of the gun has been reinforced after the Charar incidents which has galvanised the militant movement. "It has reversed the efforts to start a political process," says Rafiq Sadiq, a senior Congress(I) leader in Srinagar. Agrees Abdul Qayoom, a senior Janata Dal leader in Srinagar, whose house was burned down in Charar. "Holding the elections at this juncture will add fuel to the fire. "

Charar has also eroded the officials' morale even as they are busy preparing for the elections. A turn for the worse in the public mood has altered the perceptions of the top brass who, before the Charar episode, were hoping to push the elections through. Says a top state official: "The task (of holding elections) has now become a much more uphill one."

Adds a senior BSF [Border Security Forces] officer: "The Charar bungling has put the political clock behind by five years."

The mood in the state administration, already crippled by an employees' strike, is downright grim. So low is the morale that the Governor's optimism about polls is shared by few. Last week, this reality was driven home when, barring four, all the 40 Kashmiri officers designated as returning officers stayed away from an election-related meeting in Srinagar fearing retaliation by militants. Threats through newspapers have been issued to eight Kashmiri officials, including a deputy commissioner, engaged in the poll process.

Not surprisingly, several Valley employees have refused to associate themselves with election duty, leaving the state Government with no option but to plan for getting staff from Jammu and other states. Virtually half of the estimated 15,000 polling staff required for manning the 2,500 election booths in the Valley are expected to be requisitioned from outside the state. Some officials say that these are minor irritants compared to the greatest stumbling block: the absence of any poll-related activity in the Valley. Says a key adviser to the Governor: "Political mobilisation is nowhere to be seen but the anti-election mobilisation is in full swing."

Pessimism over elections grips a section of the security forces too. Even those army officers who had been for long backing the elections are wary. The army, officials say, can only check the militant violence — and provide a "reasonably secure" environment for the elections. But given the people's strong hostility towards it, what is reasonable and what is not are fuzzy.

Rumours abound that security forces will force the people to vote at gunpoint. Hurriyat leader Abdul Ghani Lone alleges that the army has procured Kashmiri clothing so that security forces disguised as natives can cast bogus votes. However, the army, aware that its credibility has been battered after the Charar fiasco, vehemently denies these charges. "The army will not indulge in such dirty tricks," says Lt-General J.S. Dhillon of the XV Corps at Srinagar.

More than a low turnout, what the army is apprehensive of is a violent boycott by the Kashmiris. If that happens, the runup to the elections, state authorities say, could be a veritable nightmare: stepped up mob violence, arson and anti-India hysteria; a terror campaign by militants, including attempts to kill candidates and their families:

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a massive propaganda campaign by secessionists to whip up a mass frenzy; and attempts to paralyse the administration. One sign that all this may not be mere conjecture came a day before Seshan's visit to the Valley. when militants gunned down two NC leaders in Srinagar.

Faced with the spectre of empty ballot boxes, the authorities are exploring the alternative of ensuring the unopposed election of candidates from segments where there are chances of negligible voting. Another projected strategy involves fielding some surrendered militants as independent candidates.

In fact, in north Kashmir's Bandipora belt, the anti-Hizbul Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen, led by Koka Parray, has the tacit backing of security forces and is ready to jump into the electoral fray. Some officials in Srinagar, however, say that such a move would backfire as people with criminal antecedents could emerge as MLAs [members of legislative assembly] and alter the political landscape.

Several Kashmir observers say that Rao's insistence on polls in Kashmir will achieve the exact opposite of what the stated objective is. A farcical election will further erode the Centre's credibility. It may very well widen the communal divide and reinforce alienation, pushing the Valley into fresh turmoil. It was the rigged assembly elections in 1987 that sparked off widespread alienation and the militant movement. Eight years later, the Centre shouldn't be seen as repeating one of the most shameful episodes of Kashmir's history.

Uttar Pradesh Put on 'Red Alert' After Violence

BK1206151695 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The entire state of Uttar Pradesh has been put on red alert today following violent incidents at Phulpur town in Allahabad District. According to our Lucknow correspondent, one person was killed and another injured when an irate mob set several kiosks on fire. Two companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and the PAC [Provincial Armed Constabulary] along with 100 Home Guards have been deployed in the disturbed area. Preventive measures have been taken in the entire city. The situation is reported to be under control.

Iran

Official Addresses U.S. 'Illegitimate Objectives'

LD1406111395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During today's open session of the Islamic Majles, Hasan Rowhani, the deputy speaker of the Majles, who was chairing the session, referring to the coming G-7 meeting in Canada and the U.S. efforts to persuade the other members to support its hostile moves against the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: No doubt in this session, the same as in previous G-7 meetings, the United States is pursuing two illegitimate objectives:

The first U.S. objective is to transform these sessions from council meetings into some sort of staff meeting headed by the United States. By doing so the United States wishes to impose its will on the G-7 members. The Americans' second objective is to politicize this session. Despite the fact that the G-7 was set up with the aim of coordinating world economic matters, the Americans have alway tried to enlarge its political dimension.

In his remarks, Mr. Rowhani enumerated the reasons for the United States' failure to convince its traditional allies and U.S. public opinion on its approach vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: The U.S. allegation about Iran's utilization of nuclear energy is precisely contrary to the articles of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

About the U.S. views on Iran's role in the course of the Middle East compromise [peace] plan, Mr. Rowhani said: The United States should truly search for the root cause of its and the Zionist regime's failure in the so called Middle East peace process, and it should realize that this failure stems from the unjust and unrealistic nature of this process.

Referring to the U.S. internal problems and lack of coordination in political decisionmaking in that country, Mr. Rowhani said: An embargo emanating from internal problems cannot be transformed into an international embargo. And for this same reason the Americans cannot succeed in this field.

He added: Another reason for the failure of the U.S. Government's boycott of Iran is that previously the United States had consulted its allies in the European Union and among the seven western industrial countries about economic sanctions against Iran. And they had always opposed this policy. Despite this opposition, the U.S. Government went ahead with its unilateral boycott

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of Iran. When a country receives a negative reply from everyone, it cannot expect to win their support now.

IRNA Views Global Rejection of U.S. Sanctions

LD1106220195 Tehran IRNA in English 2143 GMT 11 Jun 95

[IRNA commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA — The international community has rejected Washington's economic sanctions against Iran and U.S. President Bill Clinton seems to have been left all by himself in his challenge against the Islamic republic.

Two days after the decision for economic sanctions was announced at the Jewish center in New York, the European Commission said that 15 members of the European Union (EU) would maintain their relations with Iran despite Clinton's decision.

Four days later, the prime minister of Japan said his government would not follow Clinton's decision. He said Iran was not a terrorist country as alleged by Washington, and moreover, Iran had anti-terrorist forces which had to be supported.

The EU as well as Japan have adopted an independent stand in relation to Washington's decision. They appreciate the value of their economic and trade relations with Iran and do not believe the charges that Iran intends to become a nuclear power, or that it supports terrorism.

The aggregate value of trade between Iran and EU in 1993 was about dlrs 14 billion. Of the dlrs seven billion in value of Iran's exports to EU member countries in 1993 dlrs six billion of it was oil.

In return, Iran imported industrial goods and transportation equipment from the European Union to the value of seven billion dollars.

Germany is the biggest trade partner of Iran in the European Community and the volume of their trade exchanges last year was about DM four billion. The German Government, too, has refused to tow Clinton's line against Iran.

Peter Hausmann, spokesman of the German Government said Clinton has simply offered his own position in that respect.

The German minister of economy said recently that he doubted if any such measures as sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran might prove helpful in compelling Iran to opt for a policy line as preferred by the West. He said economic sanctions would not be a working tool with which to make an impression on policy-making in Iran.

The spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry said recently that Clinton's decision affected only a decision adopted at the national level in the United States.

The spokesman of the Italian Foreign Ministry Gabrielle Mengatti recently said that despite Clinton's decision Italy's relations with Iran would remain as positive and realistic in the future as it had been prior to Clinton's announcement of sanctions.

He said the position of his government in that relation would be consistent with that of the European Union and with Italy's western partners.

Two days after Clinton announced his decision, the Foreign Minister of Canada Andre Olle said that his government did not intend to follow Washington's sanctions against Iran.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev has said that notwithstanding the U.S. decision the Republic of Azerbaijan was determined to prevent any straining in relations with Islamic Iran.

Traders and businessmen in Dubai say that the sanctions against Iran would not adversely affect Dubai's re-exports to Iran.

As the assembly in Halifax, Canada of the seven industrial nations draws near, Washington is speeding up efforts to impress its trade partners. Experts, though, do not predict any success for the United States in its efforts to persuade other nations to follow sanctions against Iran.

Already the position of such countries as Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Britain, Japan, and the European Union in that respect is all too obvious: They have rejected Washington's sanctions against Iran.

Nonetheless, Washington insists that Iran is actively pursuing access to nuclear weapons which is against the statements of Russians who have frequently reiterated that the reactors to be used at Bushehr power plant in Iran has only peaceful applications.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency has also confirmed Iran's peaceful nuclear programme.

Recently the Russian deputy foreign minister said that despite Clinton's bid to exercise sanctions against Iran, Moscow would continue to help Tehran with non-military applications of nuclear power.

Internally, American experts have conceded that the sanctions would only place American businessmen in a disadvantageous position with their international competitors.

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UN International Drug Control Team Pays Visit

Addresses Fight Against Smugglers

LD1306174395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting today with the UN drug control team, General State Prosecutor Morteza Moqtada'i said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is serious in its fight against drug smugglers and has allocated a considerable annual budget to its campaign.

He referred to some reports that are submitted to international forums with the aim of giving a false picture of Iran's campaign against narcotics and said he hopes the UN drug control team will be able to show Iran's existing realities to international organizations.

Mr. Moqtada'i thanked the members of the UN team for their good intentions. He then referred to the biased remarks by Galindo Pohl, special envoy of the UN Human Rights Commission in Iran, and said: In Iran, the death sentence passed on armed drug smugglers who have used guns to transport and distribute narcotics and in the process have clashed with security forces, is carried out after the smugglers have been defended by a lawyer. The sentence, moreover, is still carried out only after a final endorsement by the country's supreme court.

At the the end of the meeting, the head of the UN drug control team thanked the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their efforts in fighting narcotics. He said he was surprised at Galindo Pohl's remarks, adding that his team is independent and its objective is to implement the articles of the convention of narcotics control.

Leader Cites 'Watchful Eyes' on Borders

LD1306213095 Tehran IRNA in English 2056 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA — Head of the international drug control of the United Nations General Mansur 'Abbass here Tuesday [13 June] met with Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi and said that the UN delegation that he was heading to Iran would shortly evaluate Iran's contribution to drug control and its fight against addiction.

He said the UN delegation would continue its Middle East tour to Pakistan and Arab states of the region in order to survey the status of drug fighting in those countries.

He said Iran' records in drug fighting was all too obvious.

Besharati-Jahromi said Iran was exercising tighter controls along its borders, and that the support of the United Nations, too, was helpful in controlling drug trafficking to and from Iran.

He said since the Islamic Republic was keeping watchful eyes on its borders, drug traffickers had more recently been using the soil of Central Asian states for their international trafficking of narcotics which situation, he said, warranted more anti-drug support to those states by the United Nations.

Further on Talks With Minister

LD1406100395 Tehran IRNA in English 0653 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA — Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi referred to the U.N. efforts in drug control and said Iran's record in confrontation with drug traffickers is bright and clear.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting head of the U.N. Drug Control Program (UNDCP), General Mansur 'Abbas, here on Tuesday [13 June].

Besharati-Jahromi said Iran has drawn up concrete and sound policies to fight against production, distribution and consumption of narcotic drugs.

He pointed to the closure of frontiers, installation of barriers and embankments in eastern and northeastern border areas and also reinforcement of law enforcement personnel in border regions as examples of such policies.

Besharati-Jahromi told the UNDCP head that the U.N. support has greatly contributed to the achievement of the country's goals in fighting drugs and underlined importance of exchange of views between Iran and the U.N. on ways to confront drug traffickers.

Besharati-Jahromi pointed to the two-fold increase in areas under poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and production of 6,000 tons of opium annually, adding that special political situation of the country and escalation of conflicts there have paved the way for opportunists to increase traffick of illicit drugs.

Due to intensified drug control programs in Iran, traffickers have now turned their route to Central Asian republics. He called for a collective serious effort at international level to help the newly independent republic since they could not be deal with the problem independently.

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Meanwhile, General Mansur 'Abbas in the meeting briefed the Iranian minister on the UNDCP activites and said during his stay in Iran he would become further acquainted with Iran's anti-drug programs and make assessment in this connection.

The U.N. delegation will later leave Iran to pay visits to Pakistan and Arab coutries in the region to closely study problems of the regional countries in their anti-drug campaign.

Radio Views Seeking Closer Ties With Europe

LD1106132895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senator Giulio Andreotti, former Italian prime minister, flew to Tehran 10 June to meet with Iranian officials. [passage omitted]

The meetings and talks at different levels between parliamentarian and political officials of the two sides are regarded as part of efforts to speed up the trend of mutual cooperation.

The visit to Tehran of Mr. Andreotti, a longtime politician in the government and parliament of Italy, can be evaluated in this light.

In spite of this, what made the continuation of these talks inevitable stems from two realities. First is that the Italian officials have now reached the belief that with its natural and economic potential, Iran can be a safe partner for Rome.

The second is that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the continuation of constructive talks with European countries, including Italy, to be positive and in line with the expansion of relations between Iran and Europe.

At any rate the mutual interest of Iran and Italy and the promotion of relations through continued specialized talks and interpretations of Iran's independent policies in its relations with Europe are two important factors that can provide the necessary grounds for strengthening grounds for relations between the two countries.

The necessary condition for realization of this goal is for the European countries to have stands independent of U.S. pressures. And it appears that Italy at present qualifies for such a purpose.

London Embassy Denies Hamas Leaders Given Asylum

MM1306160395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jun 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "London: Iranian Embassy Denies Tehran Granted Asylum to Two Hamas Leaders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — AL-HAYAH has received the following message from Mohammad Safa'i, deputy head of the Iranian diplomatic mission in London: "The report published by AL-HAYAH on its front page on 2 June 1995 under the headline 'Two Hamas Leaders From Jordan to Iran' gives the impression that two Hamas leaders were granted the right of asylum in Iran. We wish to deny that claim because it is completely untrue.

"We would be grateful if you could give this denial the same space and prominence you gave the original report."

AL-HAYAH wishes to point out that the report it published was, in terms of the destination to which the two Hamas leaders traveled, based on sources of the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] itself in the Jordanian capital. The report did not in any way say that Iran granted them political asylum.

When AL-HAYAH received more details about the final intended destination of the two Hamas leaders concerned, it published them first on 5 June 1995 (page 5) and then on 6 June 1995 (page 4).

Project Discussed With Turkmenistan Officals

LD1006105295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the arrival of a delegation from Turkmenistan to Iran, talks between the two countries on Turkmenistan's gas pipeline have begun. According to the Central News Unit, the talks began this morning in Tehran between Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i and Turkmen Oil and Gas Minister Khekim Ishanov [as heard].

In an interview with our correspondent, the Turkmen oil and gas minister said: The decision to construct the gas pipeline to transfer Turkmen gas through Iran was made because of the interest shown by the presidents of the two countries and because of the wish of the Turkmen people. The decision is irrevocable.

Speaking of Iran's technical ability to cooperate in the construction of this pipeline, he said: Iran has agreed to finance 50 percent of the cost of the project. Talks will

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focus on the ways and means of financing the other 50 percent.

TV Views Ties With Turkmenistan, Central Asia

LD1106191795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1654 GMT 11 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Turkmenistan's high-ranking delegation that is visiting Iran emphasized once again the firm resolve of the people and the Government of Turkmenistan to use the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran to transfer gas to Europe. [passage omitted]

The arrival of the high-ranking Turkmen delegation to our country and the emphasis laid by Ashgabat's authorities—especially by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov—on the importance of Iran's role in the transfer of the gas pipeline to Europe take place at a time when the U.S. Government is making every effort to find allies for herself in order to impose political and economic pressure on Iran. Despite all these efforts, the powerful Asian countries declared that they are not pursuing Washington's policies. The ties between Islamic Iran and the European Community have also enjoyed bright prospects.

Anyway, the contract on transferring Turkmenistan's gas to Europe through the Islamic Republic of Iran is considered an outstanding point in the economic and political ties between Iran and the Central Asian republics and is a good example of cooperation between the neighbors that will lead to the expansion of regional ties.

Ministry Sets Date for Afghan Refugees To Leave

LD1106183295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued by the office of foreign nationals and emigrants, the Interior Ministry announces that Afghan refugees holding temporary residence cards in our country are dutybound to obtain an exit visa by 31 Mordad [23 July- 22 August] of the current year [began 21 March 1995] and make a decision to leave the country.

Based on the statement, those single people holding temporary residence cards must report to the governorates that issued the temporary residence cards by the end of Khordad [22 May-21 June], the married people by the end of Tirmah [22 June-22 July], and mixed-married people by the end of Mordad. They should return to their country on receiving the exit visa.

On their return to their country, the Afghan refugees will benefit from the facilities provided by the offices representing the international organization for migration and the UN High Commission for Refugees.

Paper Views Demand for MKO Leader's Extradition

LD1106110195 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA — Iran has demanded that neighboring Iraq extradite the leader of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) Masud Rajavi, reported a weekly quoting an informed judiciary source here Saturday [10 June].

The Islamic republic has also called on Iraq to extradite the top members of the group responsible for numerous assassination, armed attacks against civilians and treason, wrote the bi-lingual KAYHAN HAVAI quoting the source who has requested anonymity.

According to the source, Iran made the request during the recent visit to Baghdad of an Iranian delegation led by foreign minister's advisor 'Ali Khorram.

The weekly said that Rajavi and his top terrorist friends are wanted by the Iranian judiciary on charges of criminal acts against the life and property of Iranian civilians, sabotage acts and treason against the state.

"Our extradition demand will remain valid as long as Rajavi stays in Iraq," he said adding, "Iran is willing to put them on trial in an open court in the presence of representatives from international bodies."

The source called on the ordinary members of the MKO to return home without any fear of punishment saying: "We have declared a general amnesty for all political opponents including MKO members who have not been involved in assassinations or killings."

The demand prompted the embarrassed Rajavi to meet Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz immediately after the Iranian delegation left Baghdad requesting that he and his group be allowed to leave the country, it added.

Shaykh 'Ali Tehrani, an Iranian opposition cleric, who served Saddam Husayn during the Iraqi imposed war from 1980-8, preaching against Iran and its leaders gave himself up to the Iranian authorities two weeks ago, concluded the weekly.

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Second Trial of MKO Members Slated for Jun 18

*LD1106122495 Tehran IRNA in English
1134 GMT 11 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA — The second session of the public trial of three members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) arrested early summer on charges of killing Pastor Mikaelian and attempting to plant bombs at the shrine of Hazrat Ma'soumeh in Qom and in the mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeyni, will be held June 18.

The public relations office of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Tehran released the name of the three terrorists as Ms. Batul.Vaferi, Ms. Maryam Shahbazpour and Ms. Farahnaz Anami.

The first session of the public trial of the three MKO members was held here March 15.

Germany Reportedly Refusing MKO Members' Entry

*NC1406063095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0230 GMT 14 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The German Government has refused to issue a visa to one of the monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term for Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] leaders. AFP reports that the German foreign minister said yesterday that the Bonn Government had asked the Interior Ministry to block the entry of Maryam Azodanlu into Germany. Klaus Kinkel stressed that members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization are responsible for many assassinations in Iran and that the German Government will not allow the entry of such people.

First Phase of Military Exercise 'Ashura' Launched

*LD1406052095 Tehran IRNA in English
0446 GMT 14 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA — The first phase of 'Ashura' military exercise was launched Wednesday [14 June], announced Ashura headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) here this morning.

In a statement the headquarters said that the IRGC forces, through the first phase of Ashura military exercise, would renew their allegiance with leader of the Islamic Revolution and their commander Grand Ayatollah Seyed 'Ali Khamene'i and would also exhibit their combat power.

The statement added that subsequent announcements by the headquarters would further elaborate on the extent, venue, different stages and objectives of the grand Ashura military exercise.

President Views Steps To Restore Market Balance

*LD1106213295 Tehran IRNA in English
2125 GMT 11 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — The staff of the headquarters for supporting market balance convened here today under the superintendence of President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to the decisions adopted at the meeting the consumer prices determined by Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh for the second group of commodities shall be identified by the consumer protection organization which may be reduced or decided to remain as they are.

The staff of the headquarters also heard a report by the Minister of Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq, and it was decided that the consumer prices of remaining goods and commodities be determined within three months with respect to the stable parity rate of hard currencies by trade unions and factories with the cooperation of the supervisory commission that is subject of Article 50 of trade union laws act and consumer and producers protection organization of Iran.

Nateq-Nuri Lauds Success of Construction Jihad

*LD1306191595 Tehran IRNA in English
1851 GMT 13 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA — Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri told a group of members of the construction jihad here today that the effort of the Iranian nation for technological self-reliance had neutralized the pressure of U.S. claws on Iran.

The speaker who was addressing best agricultural producers on the occasion of Construction Jihad Week (June 12-17), said agriculture would play a central role in the second national development plan which started this march.

He said agricultural development would help the Islamic Republic shed dependence on foreign powers with the least costs and in the shortest period.

He said economic development in Iran had been attained parallel with social equities.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri lauded the accomplishments of the Construction Jihad in the various arenas including its contribution to the sacred defense during the war years (1980-88) and paid tribute to the ministry

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for having "wiped out the mist of poverty and depravation" from the least privileged geographical areas of Iran.

He also conferred on the model producers of contstruction jihad plaques in recognition of their exemplary achievements.

Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh was present in the meeting that marked the 16th anniversary of the establishment of the construction jihad, initially a nationwide force of volunteers only.

The success story of the jihad especially in the rural and remote sectors has greatly contributed to national development in such diverse fields as road-building, agriculture, fisheries, irrigation projects, drinking water supply, power generation and cottage industry including carpet weaving.

Iran's Construction Jihad is also lending its rich expertise to other countries and is collaborating in development projects in Sudan, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Albania and Afghanistan, and has also offered to cooperate with several other countries of Africa, Central Asian and the Caucasus.

Readers Pose Questions on Domestic Issues

NC1306123495 Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Jun 95 p 3

[Readers' questions and SALAM's answers to questions from the the "Hello SALAM" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified reader's question] It seems you suffice with commentaries and criticism of the government and do not fully carry out your journalistic mission. Your reporters should seek out officials and demand that they answer questions. Journalism does not mean merely relying on a few official reports by a news agency. Even if an official refuses to answer questions put to him by journalists, say so. The impact this report will have is much more than the impact of an interview.

[SALAM] We would like to tell this dear reader that we too are not happy with this quality of journalism. What we offer our readers is based on what the reporter can do, the financial and other potentials of the newspaper, and—above all—officials' refusal or not to attend open and frank discussions and interviews. The truth is that a copy of a good quality newspaper in the country today costs well over 500 rials. Unfortunately, most of our readers cannot or will not pay between 600 and 700 rials for a newspaper. In a country like Pakistan, people pay this or a little more. We hope that with the cooperation of our readers, writers, journalists, and editors that we can achieve a favorable standard in the country.

[Reader's question] Are U.S. interests met by ties with Iran or by being hostile toward it? Please comment.

[SALAM] This depends on how officials and foreign policy planners assess a situation. This does not apply only to the United States. Each country assesses conditions when planning its relations with other countries.

Actually, the answer to your question should be given by the United States, not by us! Perhaps under the current conditions the Americans have concluded that their interests are better met by being hostile toward Iran!

If we look at this dear reader's question from another angle—and most probably this is the angle our reader had in mind—we should say that from the U.S. statesman's point of view, U.S. interests in relation with Iran demand that we surrender to their wish, as was done during the shah's regime. But the Islamic Republic of Iran still insists on its principle of independence and on its wish to propagate revolutionary Islam worldwide. Since the United States sees its interests threatened by revolutionary Islam in the various places, especially in the Islamic countries, the Middle East, and the Persian Gulf, it regulates its plans on the basis of hostility toward Iran and containing Iran.

Throughout recent years the United States has sometimes pursued a policy of pressure, sometimes a policy of smiles. It has sometimes been encouraged by our reaction and by comments coming from some simple people. And it has been discouraged by Iran's principled stances on issues such as the regime occupying Jerusalem. These feelings of encouragement and discouragement have regulated their stances. An example was seen with the recent trade embargo.

[Reader's question] Those who are blocking the country's economy by various means should know that they are not dealing only with the government. They have a nation and an ideology to deal with. Although the bill on executing economic terrorists was not approved [by the Majles], if the government and the nation deem it necessary, they will take serious and even harsh steps against them. It is better for them to stop their antihuman acts and to walk in the path of God and his prophet.

[SALAM] Every step taken concerning the country's current laws on economy should conform with the law in general. The government and the judiciary can persecute and punish the economic terrorists. And serious and harsh action against these people should be taken only in line with the country's laws. It should be taken by official bodies and agents, not by irresponsible people. If this is not done and we continue to see people blocking the economy, if we see that the policies and

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programs do not help the majority, but meet the interests of the minority, an instrument in the hands of some, then these policies and programs should be changed. Harsh acts against these people are not permitted. If some people see they cannot reap their riches through legal transactions and again start to block the economy, then it is the Majles deputies and the policymakers who should be questioned on why they have paved the way for such obstructionism with the policies and laws they have adopted. The deputies and policymakers should then either admit their mistakes and review their policies and plans or step aside for others to do the job. [passage omitted]

Public Asking for Proper Butter Distribution

95LA0211D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Mar 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran (IRNA)—Extensive distribution has begun for vegetable shortening and butter at the approved prices in cooperatives and shops, and although the price on the market has dropped significantly, there are long lines.

Two weeks ago the Market Regulation Support Staff approved the national distribution of 60,000 tons of vegetable shortening at the approved price, to be done by the end of the month of Esfand [20 March 1995].

At this meeting, in addition to the announcement of adjustment and normal coupons for vegetable shortening, it was decided that the distribution of domestically produced guild and industrial vegetable shortening, which began in Bahman [21 January-19 February], would reach 25,000 tons by the end of Esfand.

The citizens of Tehran recommended a controlled system of distribution to reduce the lines, prevent abuses by brokers and middlemen, and assure that the goods would reach consumers and those in need.

The branch of the Sepah Consumer Cooperative Company at the intersection of Fatemi and Kargar streets distributes vegetable shortening and butter at the approved prices. It is one of the centers where there are lines during most of the time that these two items are distributed.

Our correspondent visited this site. In his report he writes: Next to the line of people seeking butter and vegetable shortening, which extends from the Kargar intersection toward North Kargar street, dealers are seen selling the vegetable shortening and butter to passers-by at about twice the approved price.

They buy the vegetable shortening and butter from people who are not in need but have the time to stand in line and then sell them to needy buyers who do not have the time to stand in line. They put most of the profit into their pockets.

The manager of the Kargar Branch of the Sepah Cooperative Store believes that to eliminate the lines, cut out the middlemen, and distribute goods of limited supply fairly, the best thing to do is to sell them with ration coupons.

To meet its goals of regulating the market and eliminating the psychological effects of coupon distribution, the government can place special emphasis on establishing peace, which is what the market needs today, by providing abundant supply and shortening the period for the coupons.

Distribution of Basic Goods Discussed

95LA0211C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Mar 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—Next year when the procurement of raw materials for production units happens more quickly and production levels increase, it is expected that the distribution of basic and special goods will be better compared to this year.

Engineer Mohammad Mehdi Parsapur, the Ministry of Industry's general manager of food and drug industries, announced the above in an interview with RESALAT's economic affairs correspondent. He added: The distribution and production of some goods, which play an important role in the family basket and in the daily public diet, receives more attention because they are special goods.

Next Year's Vegetable Shortening Production

Eng. Parsapur noted that in the first 11 months of the current year [21 March 1994-19 February 1995] 607,000 tons of vegetable shortening was produced in the country; this is an 8 percent increase compared to the same period the previous year. He added: Next year, when projects for more production of vegetable shortening go into operation, the production of this product will increase to between 900,000 and 1 million tons, assuming the raw materials are obtained in time. This figure will allow exports as well as meet domestic needs, and there will no longer be a need to import vegetable shortening.

Our correspondent asked: What is the estimated current total consumption of vegetable shortening in the country, and how much has been imported this year?

He answered: Current consumption is between 800,000 and 850,000 tons, in view of the growth in population, and next year's production program is 900,000 tons.

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This year a total of 100,000 to 150,000 tons was imported to make up for the shortage.

The Ministry of Industries general manager of food and drug industries discussed the method of distributing vegetable shortening in the ration coupon system. He said: This year 180,000 tons of vegetable shortening was distributed among consumers at the subsidized rate using the ration coupon system. Next year this figure will double (about 360,000 tons). Thus in the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] program the number of ration coupons to be announced at the subsidized price for the year 1374 will be the same as the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994].

He discussed the program and the amount of raw oil imported for the use of vegetable shortening producers. He said: This year, due to the cut in the government's commitments for rationed vegetable shortening, the production units had more responsibility in procuring the necessary raw oil. What is required to carry out this important responsibility is a large amount of currency in circulation and the timely allocation of foreign exchange, and there were problems with this. For next year, however, provisions have been made for the purchase of 800,000 tons of raw oil by the government commerce company and the oil company, and this amount of imported raw oil will expedite the production of vegetable shortening inside the country.

This Year's Production of Sugar Cubes and Sugar

He said: It is not clear when the factories producing sugar cubes will cease operation and end production. Reports received in the first 10 months of this year show that sugar cube and sugar production were that same as during this period last year.

Eng. Parsapur added: By the end of Dey this year [20 January 1995], about 640,000 tons of sugar cubes and sugar had been produced by domestic factories.

Laundry Product Production This Year and Next Year

He said that the amount of laundry detergent powder produced in the first 11 months of the year was 173,000 tons. He said: Production of this product was 163,000 tons in the same period last year, and this figure increased 6 percent this year. It is expected that by the end of the current year, production of laundry powder in the country will increase to 175,000 tons.

The Ministry of Industries general manager of food and drug industries said: Assuming the procurement of the raw materials for the production units of laundry powder and also of the foreign exchange they need, next year's production of this product will increase significantly. He added: Next year's program provides for the production of 210,000 tons of laundry powder.

Our correspondent asked: Did the factories producing the laundry detergent powder increase their price in the last few months?

He answered: Since laundry detergent powders are considered special goods and the prices of special goods can be changed only by the Producer and Consumer Protection Organization, the production units have absolutely no right to make any kind of price increase on their own.

Early this year, due to increases in the prices of raw materials and in the rates for the foreign exchange allocated to these units, the Producer and Consumer Protection Organization announced a new price with a percentage increase. There have been no other increases in the price of laundry detergent since that time.

Soap Production This Year and Next

Eng. Parsapur said 30,000 tons of industrial soap was produced in the first 10 months of the current year. He said: Soap production increased 20 percent in this period compared to the same period last year, and next year's program provides for the production of 50,000 tons of this product.

He was asked: Is the sale price of soap also set by the Producer and Consumer Protection Organization, and what is the reason for the increases made in its price by the production units?

He answered: Soap is in the second group and is subject to pricing by the Market Regulation Staff; therefore its price has been set to date by the production units to make competition and maximum supply possible.

The Ministry of Industries general manager of food and drug industries added: When the new policies are adopted, the prices of goods in the second group such as soap, shampoo, liquid dish detergent, beverages, smoking materials, sugar cubes, and sugar will also be set by the Producer and Consumer Protection Organization, and the Government Penalties Organization will supervise the sale of these items at the approved prices.

Milk and Dairy Product Production This Year and Next Year

The Ministry of Industries general manager of food and drug industries said: Production in the milk and dairy products sector in the first 11 months of 1373 increased 24 percent compared to the same period the previous year. During this period about 517,000 tons of dairy products were produced in the country, while the previous year this figure was 415,000 tons.

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He said that next year's program provides for the production of 550,000 tons of dairy products.

Meat and Beverage Product Production

Eng. Parsapur also said that production of meat products in the first 11 months of the current year was 56,000 tons. He said: Production of meat products increased 87 percent during this period compared to the same period the previous year.

He said that the production of beverages in the first 11 months of the current year grew 10 percent compared to the same period the previous year, reaching 108 million 24-unit cartons. He said: In the previous year this figure was 98 million cartons. The production program provides that this year's production will increase to 120 million cartons by the end of the year.

Final 1994 Non-Oil Export Figures Released

95LA0238B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—The Customs Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced the final figures on non-oil exports last year.**

According to a report by the Public Relations Office of Customs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 7,532 tons of non-oil goods at a value of $4.4 billion were exported from the country in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], which marked an increase of 40 percent in weight and 15 percent in value compared to the exports of 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994].

This report indicates: The most important exports last year were items such as carpets, pistachios, steel, chemicals, copper, cows, sheep, goats, raisins, and foodstuff.

This report adds: Last year, the level of hand-woven woolen and silk carpets was 33,000 tons at a value of 2,929 billion rials [R], which shows an increase of 10 percent in weight and 16 percent in value compared to 1372.

This report shows: The level of exports of pistachios and shelled pistachios last year was 107,000 tons at a value of R669 billion; iron and metals, 1.362 million tons at a value of R512 billion; chemicals, 1.643 million tons at a value of R383 billion; copper ores, 37,000 tons at a value of R143 billion; hides and salambor [as transliterated], 27,000 tons at a value of R198 billion; ready-made clothing, 13,000 tons at a value of R181 billion.

Correction to 9 Jun Supplement

WA1406181795

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Household Goods," published in the 9 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT Supplement ("Iran: Prices of Goods, Feb-May"), page 3:

Column one, third complete paragraph, first sentence make read: With reference to continuous fluctuation of prices, he added: For example... (supplying missing words)

Pakistan

Daily Urges U.S. To Revise View of Islamic World

BK0606140795 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 4 Jun 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Increasing U.S. Demands From Pakistan and an Astute Strategy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports received from Washington said that at the U.S.-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group meeting, Pakistan was assigned the task of policeman in the Gulf region, where it will play the role of a vanguard against the "specter of fundamentalism." Due to their oil reserves, the Gulf and the Middle Eastern regions are extremely important to the United States. The United States fears that the region might be swayed by Islamic fundamentalist feelings with extremists taking control of the oil reserves. The United States feels that Pakistan is willing to play a role against the Islamic fundamentalism. It derived the impression from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's statements in which she condemned fundamentalism and terrorism and expressed her resolve to make Pakistan a modern Islamic state. The United States feels that it has an ally in the Benazir Bhutto government, which has the potential to become its best ally in the cold war against fundamentalism.

Under this backdrop, it is necessary to make a detailed assessment of the new U.S. schemes about Pakistan and the Gulf. Pakistan was originally established as the model of a modern Islamic parliamentary democratic welfare state. Moreover, the Muslims in Pakistan adhere to the principle of peace and amity and are against any kind of torture, extremism, terrorism, and subversion. The Islamic world as a whole also adheres to these teachings. However, the anti-Islamic forces have coined terms of their choice and attributed them to the world's oppressed, subjugated, and hapless Islamic countries that are struggling for their freedom and rights. The United States itself had to make many sacrifices and face the civil war for the sake of its own independence.

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Therefore, how can the struggle of Kashmiris and Muslims of Chechnya and Bosnia, who are resisting the Indian, Russian, and Serbian aggression, or the activities of people who are helping them, be termed as terrorism?

In the U.S. view, Iran, Libya, and Sudan are extremist Islamic states. Their crime is that they are unwilling to accept the United States' political hegemony. The U.S. claim of championing the cause of democracy was exposed in the case of Algeria, where the United States became an obstacle to the transfer of power to a party that won the majority mandate in free and fair elections. The reason behind the U.S. propaganda against Sudan is that the Sudanese Government and its people want to lead a life according to Islamic faith. The United States and the anti-Islamic countries should ask if they themselves are fundamentalist Christians, fundamentalist Jews, fundamentalist Hindus, and fundamentalist Buddhists. Why should they object to adherence to the fundamental principles of Islam? In a number of U.S. states, laws are enacted in the light of Christian teachings. The Conservative Tory party in the UK has been ruling the country for years. However, it never dared involve itself in any conflict with the Church of England. Given this situation, it is the duty of the Islamic world not to adopt an apologetic stance about religion. It is also the duty of the Government of Pakistan to refuse to be a partner in any U.S. game in the name of modernity and liberalism. If, God forbid, the government accepts any such role, then it would constitute a contradiction of the political ideology of Pakistan and the perception and concepts of its founders. The 120 million people of Pakistan might not tolerate it.

The government should realize that the United States is achieving the acceptance of all its demands by Pakistan. It has been successful in "capping" Pakistan's nuclear program — the guarantee for Pakistan's security. The United States is now trying to conduct a nonphysical inspection of Pakistan's nuclear program through the seismic center in Chakwal to confirm whether Pakistan has really capped it. The next thing the United States is pressing for is a freeze on the program and eventual termination. The United States imposed the Pressler Amendment on Pakistan to punish it for its nuclear program, which resulted in the suspension of U.S. economic and military aid. The minor revision made in the amendment allows only for economic aid. While Pakistan is being denied the necessary military aid to counter the dangers posed to its independence, security and sovereignty, India is, however, being allowed to put as much pressure as possible on Pakistan. India has announced the deployment of Prithvi missiles along Punjab borders.

The United States exerted pressure due to which the government had to stop assistance to Kashmiri freedom fighters. It is now increasing the pressure to stop the private organizations's assistance, too. Speculations are circulating about the selling of Gwadar. People feel that it is the United States that put up Oman as a front because it wants to set up a naval base in the Arabian Sea after it withdraws from Hong Kong. The base will enable it to keep a presence in the mouth of Gulf and control the Indian Ocean region and the nerve center of all world's oil supply. It will also enable the United States to keep watch on the activities of Iran and China.

Pakistan seems to be becoming a tool of the United States. If, as the latest reports indicate, it has agreed to become "America's policeman" in the Gulf and Arab states, then it will definitely make Pakistan more isolated in the world. Iran and China are already displeased with us over Gwadar and the seismic center. The entire Gulf region and Arab countries in Pakistan's neighborhood, which are brotherly Islamic nations, especially Iran, will view Pakistan with suspicion, and the warmth for Pakistan currently perceived in this region will evaporate. It is the duty of the present government to allow an open discussion in the nation's elected parliament on the decisions it wants to make on foreign policy matters and refrain from taking any step that might have a bearing in future without taking the whole nation into confidence. A democratic parliamentary polity prevails now in Pakistan, in which all decisions must be made through mutual consultation. Obviously, no one in Pakistan would like to opt for a conflict with sole superpower United States. However, it can be conveyed to the United States that by doing the job it wants us to do, Pakistan will become more isolated in this region and lose whatever influence it now has. A Pakistan without influence will not be in a position to serve any U.S. interest.

The United States should review its approach to the entire Islamic world. It is not a wise strategy to turn Muslims into its enemy when there is no justification for it. The Islamic world as 'a whole has not done anything bad to the United States, so why should it be bent upon punishing the entire Islamic community? [quotation marks as published] The Islamic world should comprehend the challenge of the day and face it together.

Leghari Stresses Strategic Location, 'Vital' Role

BK1306114995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has underlined the geostrategic importance of Pakistan and said its unique location can play a vital

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role to strengthen peace, tranquility and security in and around the region.

He was addressing the 19th convocation of the National Defense College in Rawalpindi this morning. Besides Pakistan, officers from Australia, Bangladesh, Jordan, France, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America received masters degrees in defense and strategic studies and war studies at the convocation.

The president said Pakistan is located at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, Gulf and the Middle East, thus it can serve as a bridge between the Muslim countries and the rest of the world as a symbol of moderate democracy. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in his speech also referred to Pakistan-India relations, the problems of Kashmir, Afghanistan, and the situation in the country. Referring to Pakistan-India relations, the president spoke about India's hegemonic policy and designs in the region. He regretted that it had created problems not only for Pakistan, but all other countries in the region, forcing them to divert their already meager resources on defending themselves instead of poverty alleviation and uplift of their masses.

In this regard, the president mentioned the longstanding problems in the region which is the legacy and unfinished agenda of the partition. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari referred to the current spate of violence by Indian occupation forces against the people in the held Kashmir and said the whole world at last has started recognizing the necessity of a peaceful solution of this vital problem as a prelude to peace and stability and harmony in the region.

The president said despite all these problems, the present government has taken a number of steps for the overall socioeconomic growth in the country. He said these measures have started yielding beneficial results for the people of the country. He also mentioned the problem of Karachi and said all measures are being taken to restore normalcy. However, more efforts are needed to achieve this objective.

Editorial Views Ties With China, Turkey

BK0906102095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Jun 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Pakistan and Sino-Turkish Ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's five-day official visit to China that began on May 25 to promote cultural and economic relations between the two countries, was in the company of 40 Turkish businessmen. This thrust on bilateral trade promotion comes at a time when both countries within the last year have faced cuts and embargoes on aid (in the case of Turkey) and trade (in the case of China) by the USA on the basis of American protests of human rights violations in both countries.

Even as the American media continues its unabated projection of the Chinese crack down on dissidents, pegged around the The Tiananmen Square demonstrations which took place six years ago, President Bill Clinton announced his decision on May 26 to renew the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status with China, admitting that attempting linkage of trade with human rights had failed to achieve the desired result. It had been withheld for the last two years.

More likely the presidential change of heart was a response to the toughening Chinese stance following the recent tensions when the Chinese government canceled high-level visits to the US, following the latter's granting of visa to the Taiwanese president. Despite this, the Chinese government and the Taiwanese government met after a lapse of two years to discuss the protracted discussions pertaining to their relationship. The Chinese government thus asserted its control over its sovereignty in this unique way. While in the Chinese scenario both sides have the proverbial patience to carry on discussions on the complexity of their situation with a long-term outlook to achieve something more durable, American politics is the very opposite, tied as it is to five-year terms and the presidential race, which has already begun.

Interestingly the restoration of the MFN status for China was followed by the US House of Representatives vote on May 27 last, to withhold 25 percent of a $453m [million] loan to Turkey, pending submission of a report of human rights violations by Turkey against the Kurds. Prime Minister Ciller, criticising the "irrelevant" link of aid and human rights, said that Turkey would reject the aid.

China has recently been in international news for its test-firing of missiles. The recent AFP report from Japan, quoting Japanese government sources states that China has test-fired a new mobile intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the Dong Feng 31, which has a range of 8,000 kms. According to the news report, this means that if launched from China, it could reach the west coast of the United States and anywhere in Europe.

Given the unstable situation in Europe's underbelly, and the manner in which the Bosnian Serbs have reversed all Unprofor and Nato calculations, making these organisations rethink strategies to deal with the Serb menance under the circumstances mentioned earlier, the Turkish President's visit assumes a wider significance, especially

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in the context of China's enhancement of its missile capability.

China has been acknowledged as undergoing an economic expansion, which makes it a lucrative market for any manner of trade and investment. The Chinese government has taken a number of measures to steady its gait in the international economy scenario. In December 1993, China carried out sweeping tax reforms. The Chinese People's Bank abolished its traditional system of dual currency exchange rates from January 1 this year. To counter the effect of the expected strong inflationary pressures within the Chinese economy (30 percent in some urban areas), on January 7 the government, having taken stock of the panic buying of staple food items and grave risks to social stability, announced a minimum wage scale to be followed in urban areas to be implemented by July 1995 (requiring the provincial and municipal authorities to guarantee each worker at least a half of the average wage in his or her geographical region).

Under the October 1992 market agreement with the USA, China agreed to remove 75 percent of its non-tariff barriers within two years. The move was accompanied by the imposition of new controls, or the strengthening of existing restrictions on a wide range of goods. Following a serious trade dispute, a three-year textile agreement was also signed, effectively reducing China's access to the US market by some 13 percent. All this makes no difference to the long-term planning which the Chinese mind thinks out.

In mid-January the US Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen became the highest-ranking official to visit, the delegation was allowed to visit five prisons to ensure that it was not manufacturing goods for export to the USA. It formed part of the conditions laid down by the US administration for the re-introduction of the MFN status. The joint economic committee forum for bilateral trade issues was also revived. The end-image of all these negotiations was that of the two, China emerged as the more resilent one. All this projection of the dissidents' issue in the Western media totally ignores the fact that the internal debate is fully on as to the whys and wherefores of the Tiananmen Square incident.

China also resumed negotiations on March 15 in Geneva to rejoin the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), which it left in 1950. It has received strong support from a group of Gatt members, excluding the US. At these meetings, Chinese officials have highlighted their government's efforts to unify exchange rates along with full convertibility, as well as reductions in a wide range of tariffs, tax reforms and reductions in non-tariff trade barriers. Once China rejoins Gatt, the world's economic scene will undergo a qualitative change.

On March 30 last, the Chinese government also announced it would phase out quota restrictions on most categories of imports by 1997. Turkey, therefore, has the prospects of a huge market awaiting its potential, particularly its industrial technology in the field of infrastructural development.

For Pakistan, the coming closer of its two regional allies provides an opportunity of a lifetime to rethink its security in a comprehensive manner, and determine the manner with which to incorporate the leverage a Sino-Turkey under-standing offers it. Pakistan's security rethinking, backed, of course, with the country's all-round development, must think of enhancing its capabilities.

The list of capabilities has to be enlarged to consider factors beyond the obvious ones of military hardware. It includes strategic alliances and security partnerships. Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) comes to mind. Established in its early days as an economic framework for its member countries, by July 1994 it had established the Asean Regional Forum on political and security matters, not so much because of any imminent conflicts among its members, but to keep the Asean region trouble- free from conflicts elsewhere in the world. The Forum's larger objective is the eventual creation of a multilateral conference on regional security, in which Asian countries can come together with other major outside powers to discuss common security issues.

In the conceptual framework of regional security wherein Pakistan finds itself, the Turkish President's visit to China suggests a few possibilities. First, in both countries the average common Pakistani still gets the kind of respect he, or she, gets nowhere else in the world. With both countries, Pakistan enjoys warms and cordial governmental and people-to-people relations. It is a valuable base on which to establish a regional security dimension — one which stretches from Turkey's western borders to China's Pacific Coast. It could be through the existent organisations like ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], by enlarging them to include China. Or giving shape to something entirely new, keeping in mind that for the landlocked countries of Central Asia, it would be but natural to first look towards their immediate environment for their economic interaction.

Such security parameters would require constant and on-going research efforts to keep the country's policy markers in step with the fast developments around the region, and its people well- informed regarding these developments. About all, it demands what should be

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defined in the national agenda as strategic concept number one, and that is developing the capability to feed itself.

In other words more attention to agriculture and agro-based economy. All this means that before Pakistan can become truly effective in its home region, stretching from one end of Turkey to the other end of China, it must develop its home base fully. In the current times, Karachi becomes the crucial factor in Pakistan is to rethink its security options.

MQM Calls Off Planned 'Agitation' Against Bhutto

BK1106093595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Jun 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Chief Altaf Hussain has for a few days postponed agitation against the derogatory remarks passed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto against Muhajirs.

In a statement issued, from London the MQM Chief said that the protest has been postponed for the time being in view of the fast changing political situation and the advice given by the members of MQM Coordination Committee and other responsible persons.

It may be recalled that Altaf had warned the Prime Minister of starting an agitation if she did not apologise for passing insulting remarks against Muhajirs by June 12.

The MQM Leader said the MQM has always kept the interest of the country and the nation above everything and for the reason the agitation was being postponed temporarily, despite the fact that the entire nation has risen in protest against the racist remarks made by the Prime Minister.

He, however, made it clear that upholding of the national interests was not the responsibility of the MQM alone but all the patriotic people. He said it was the need of the hour that every Pakistani especially those in power, patriotic Generals, scholars, writers, lawyers, judges, political and religious leaders should fulfil their national duty to compel the Prime Minister to publicly withdraw the derogatory comments which she made against the Muhajirs, and also stop genocide of Muhajirs.

Unless and until MQM is recognised as a legitimate political party and its political victimisation is stopped it would not be possible to restore peace and solve problems, he remarked.

He said that use of force against a party that has the mandate of the people can never be in the interest of the country and the nation.

He said if the government is sincere in establishing peace and justice it should open heartedly accept the MQM as a representative body and give Muhajirs their legitimate rights. Our Monitoring Desk adds: MQM Chief Altaf Hussain has announced to suspend planned protest against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's hard-hitting statement which caused anxiety to the Muhajir community.

In an interview with BBC on Saturday [10 June] night, the MQM Chief said: "We suspended our protest as a goodwill gesture and with open heart although Prime Minister did not offer any apology." He said it is premature to say whether this suspension is temporary or not but now we will see what suggestions journalists, intelligentsia and men in power give to government in response to our positive step."

When questioned what will be his future strategy if government did not reply positively, Altaf Hussain said: "Then we will fully try to contact other political parties and put facts before them as Karachi has become a national issue and all patriotic political and religions parties should now come out in the open to resolve the crisis."

To a question, he replied "we have been and are offering talks to the government with open heart but it is the government and PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leadership which are not reciprocating our gesture." "We still are ready to hold talks with the government if it respects the mandate millions of people have given to the MQM," he added. The MQM leader dispelled the impression that they have always demanded withdrawal of cases and release of MQM activists before initialing any dialogue with the government and added "our only and basis demand is that the suppressive action, the government has launched against Muhajir community, should immediately be terminated. It all depends on the government to come forward sincereiy and start a dialogue," he said.

When asked that Muhajirs are being affected most by Karachi violence, the self-exiled MQM leader said the government through its operation is carrying out a genocide of Muhajir community. He further said it is the government who is following a policy of clash and it should give up this policy in the best interest of the country. "We are ready to hold talks with a third party before starting any formal dialogue with the government," he said the added "people from Pakistani judiciary will be welcomed provided their impartiality is not suspicious in this regard."

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Bhutto Said Ready To Talk to MQM, Not Leader

BK1406095295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the government is ready to enter into dialogue with the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], but at this juncture direct talks with Altaf Hussain will not be a proper political step as Altaf Hussain is charged with torturing and killing an Army personnel. However, she added, at some later stage negotiations with Altaf Hussain can be held.

She expressed these views while talking to Editors and columnists from the national Press here at Prime Minister House on Tuesday [13 June].

The Prime Minister said government welcomes Altaf Hussain's decision regarding postponement of the agitation and considers this decision as a step forward in the right direction. However, she regretted, despite this decision violence in Karachi continues. Benazir Bhutto said if MQM calls a ceasefire and discards arms, the government will be ready to hold parleys with them. "At present we continuously welcome Altaf's statement," she said.

Answering a question about withdrawal of cases against Altaf Hussain and other MQM leaders, the Prime Minister ruled out any possibility of withdrawal and added the persons against whom there are registered cases, should face them in courts. Elaborating her point she said Asif Zardari and myself faced case in courts and now Nawaz Sharif is also doing that, so no one can be exempted from facing the trials in court.

The Prime Minister said in 1988 we made an agreement with Altaf Hussain but in spite of that MQM did not change its attitude." She said during Jam Sadiq's tenure Altaf Hussain was made "king of Sindh" and later Nawaz Sharif inducted MQM in the government but an operation was also launched against MQM in his tenure. Nawaz Sharif on the floor of the House announced that he had started the operation in the interest of the country. She added, "we did not support MQM at that time because we do not pursue the policy of duplicity."

Answering a question about Karachi situation and foreign involvement, the Prime Minister said, India is desirous of creating an East Pakistan-like situation in Karachi, but the Muhajirs are patriotic citizens of Pakistan and want peace and tranquillity. They support government in its efforts for restoring peace and normalcy in the city.

She said now Nawaz Sharif is supporting MQM whereas his government had collected evidence of MQM's terrorist activities. Benazir disclosed that MQM men are involved in the murders of Manlana Salahuddin and Azim Tariq who have been arrested.

To a question the Prime Minister said, "we have accepted 3 demands of MQM: The withdrawal of Army from Sindh, even-handed treatment of MQM (A) [Altaf] and MQM (H) [Haqiqi] and the appointment of a Muhajir Governor, but the MQM has not responded positively.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said, "we will not compromise on the integrity and solidarity of Pakistan, whether we remain in power or not." She said the government will frustrate the nefarious designs of those forces which want to create East Pakistan-like situation in Pakistan.

Answering a query about calling the Muhajirs timid rats at a ceremony in Kasur, she said she had not used derogatory remarks about Muhajirs but called the terrorists "timid rats". However, she added "if my remarks hurt somebody's feelings I apologise." She said whatever she said at Kasur was in the national interest and not against Muhajir community.

Replying questions about the oncoming budget, the Prime Minister said government's economic performance is much better, however, she added, it is not as good as it should be. She said measures to minimise deficit investment will continue.

The Prime Minister did not agree that inflation has increased and said during the last six months inflation has gone down.

Bhutto Launches Fund To Support Kashmir Cause

BK1306163695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto launched the Kashmir Relief Fund with an initial amount of two crore rupees for the rehabilitation and welfare of Kashmiri refugees and for projecting the Kashmir issue at international level. She launched the fund at a special meeting of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir held in Islamabad this evening.

Out of the initial amount, one crore rupees is to be provided by the federal government, while the remaining by the four provinces. The prime minister and the members of the Kashmir committee donated their one month's pay to the fund. Ms. Benazir Bhutto urged all the federal and provincial ministers, parliamentarians and well-to-do people to donate toward the fund.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said launching of the Kashmir Relief Fund is the reflection of the present government and people's solidarity with

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their Kashmiri brethren who are rendering great sacrifices to achieve their right of self- determination. The prime minister said Pakistan wants the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue through negotiations under the UN Security Council resolutions and it is the only way to resolve the Kashmir problem. She said even the Indian leaders had accepted the UN resolutions and wanted to resolve through negotiations.

But, she said, Indian authorities have let loose a reign of terror and massive human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. The prime minister made it clear that the farcical elections being planned by India in occupied Kashmir are not the solution to the Kashmir problem. She urged India to come to the negotiating table to find a peaceful solution in accordance with the UN resolutions.

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